

CD-ROM Today



Future
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Your guarantee of value

Issue 12 April 1995

Airborne!

CD flight sims, aircraft encyclopedias and plane games

Interactive Theatre

New life for Shakespeare classics



If your 670Mb disc is not attached please ask your newsagent

Disc

Packed with multimedia software for Windows and DOS

CD-ROM Today

Not to be sold separately

*Totally brilliant,
absolutely packed...*

- Xplore Peter Gabriel's Secret World – fully interactive demo.
- Brand new set of interactive demos from Sony and MDI.
- Complete graphics packages for DOS and Windows.
- Fabulous fully playable flight sims and game demos.
- Full contents on back...



670Mb!

Your essential CD-ROM collection for multimedia PC

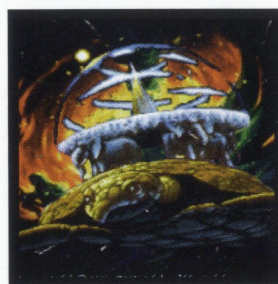
12

- One World, One Tribe
- Terry Pratchett's Discworld
- Fine tuning PC memory
- New TV tuner & MPEG cards

GO! Disc details:
back cover!

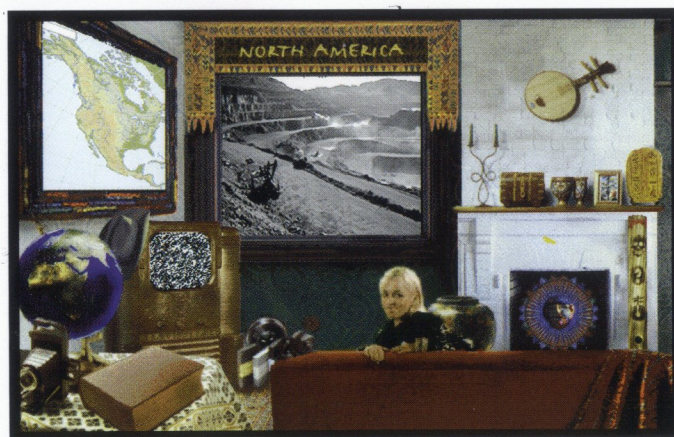
Quick start

Spread your wings with our Flight feature, or travel the globe with One Tribe and One World. Discover Peter Gabriel's Secret World on the disc, and Terry Pratchett's Discworld in the magazine! These are just a few of the many things we have in store for you this month...



24 **Discworld**

Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels, with all their phenomenal delight and chaos, have mutated themselves into CD adventure games. Find out if it's a change for the better.



28 **One Tribe**

Ethnic, tribal, hip and trendy, this celebration of the human race is a world atlas with attitude.



40 **Flight Unlimited**

Virgin's spectacular flight simulator is here (well almost). We put the developmental craft through a few sensible and responsible manoeuvres, and throw in some insanely dangerous stunts as well.

Victory roll or tail spin? We put the latest flight CDs to the test, but that's just for starters...



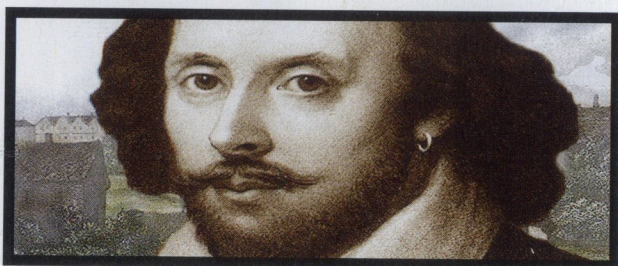
42 Daring to Fly

Take a look at Arnowitz Studios' stylish history of aviation, from Icarus to the Red Baron. It's in our Flight feature, and on the disc.



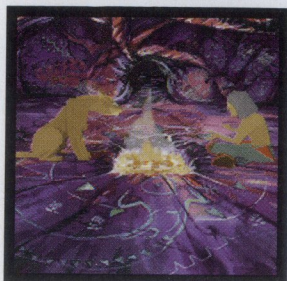
52 Xplora 1

Peter Gabriel's Secret World finally opens its doors to the PC fraternity. The fully-interactive demo version on the disc features the videos for *Kiss That Frog*, and the Grammy Award rehearsals, plus the remix version of 'Quiet' *Steam*.



63 Shakespeare

Hot on the heels of our Interactive Theatre feature on page 21, here are just a few of the latest luvvies on Shakespeare CDs.



90 Alone in the Dark

From haunted houses, to pirate adventures, to Wild West ghost towns, *Alone in the Dark* reaches its third incarnation. Welcome to Spooksville.



▲ Matthew Richards, Editor

Welcome to our magazine!

Flight simulators are the only reason PCs have caught on in the domestic market! Well okay, they're not really, but they are outrageously popular, from adrenalin pumping, combat flight sims, to single-prop simulators that let you potter around doing sedate circuits of airfields, and crash into the ground.

The first flight sim I ever played was one of Microsoft's earliest, and it was on the office computer. Everything was green (the colour of the screen) and it made a sound like an electric shaver just before the batteries run out.

Things have come a long way since then, and this month we take you a little closer to heaven with the latest CD-based flight packages, including Virgin's incredible new release and Origin's first world war sim, *Wings of Glory*. There are fully flyable demos of *Wings of Glory* and *US Navy Fighters* on the coverdisc as well.

If you'd rather cut the flying part out altogether, but still want to travel the world, you can do that too with full reviews of *One Tribe* and *One World*, two new discs that cover the globe from social and geographic perspectives. And if that's a little too matter of fact, you might like to try Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* and *Peter Gabriel's Secret World* for size. There's also an astonishing *Discworld* competition on page 23, and a great demo for *Xplora 1* on the disc.

Matthew

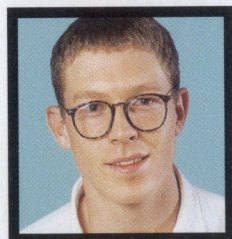
Matthew Richards
Editor

Our writers



Matthew Richards

With the software equivalent of a shoe-horn, Matthew squeezes a full 670Mb of demos onto this month's disc, then turns to *Xplora 1* and *Yes Active* for a little light relief.



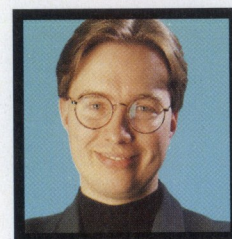
Garrick Webster

Fresh(ish) back from meetings with developers in San Francisco, an inspired Garrick takes the video director's chair for *Nickelodeon*, then heads off to *Discworld*. There's just enough time left for the complete Shakespeare experience and all the News.



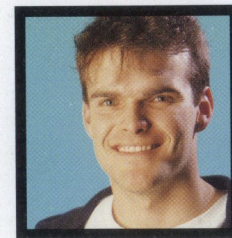
Rachel Harrison

Rachel meets hundreds of famous people this month with *People's Century* and then gets put off a visit to the cinema by *Secrets of Stargate*.



Tim Norris

Intrepid aviator Tim takes to the wing with a huge collection of flight sims and aircraft encyclopedias on CD-ROM. Then he discovers the whole world and its peoples in his own living room, with two of Virgin's latest.



Richard Longhurst

Richard finds himself *Alone in the Dark* and invites us all to the movies, via this month's Internet round-up. The fizzy drinks and popcorn are on him.

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<i>Meet all the peoples of the world – and Pip Dann...</i>	

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<i>Virgin's newest way to travel – no plane required!</i>	

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Complete CD disc guide	105
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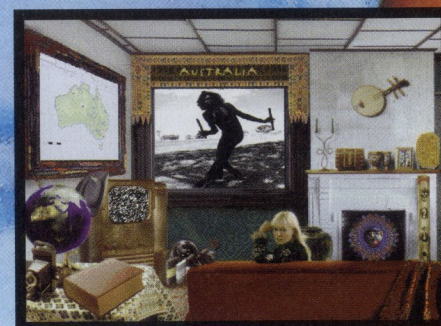
24 Discworld

Terry Pratchett's world famous books get the CD-ROM treatment with this new adventure game based on the printed editions.



28 One Tribe

Trendy or tiresome – or both? Feel the vibes of Virgin's new exploration of the human race, in this month's Top Titles.



32 One World

An atlas with a difference, *One World* breaks the mould with this young person's guide to the planet.



Reviews

3D Studio _____ 72

Brilliant computer rendering in this month's Pro Choice.

Air Havoc Controller _____ 46

Off-beat game of keeping lemming-like planes apart.

Alone in the Dark 3 _____ 90

A Hollywood ghost town film set stages this new release.

Aviation Adventure _____ 44

Everything from Harriers, to Jumbos, to paper planes...

Clean Sweep _____ 70

How to clear all those Windows files you don't need any more.

Closet Conductor _____ 55

Arm yourself with a baton and hit that orchestra!

Daring to Fly _____ 42

A quirky look at the dreams and history behind human flight.

Dark Forces _____ 97

Battle it out against storm troopers – the Star Wars never end.

Discworld _____ 24

Adventure game from the preposterously well selling books.

Flight Unlimited _____ 40

Stunning aerial photography sets the scene for this brilliant new flight sim.

Games Scene _____ 101

Wings of Glory, Mortal Kombat II, Big Red Adventure, Psycho Pinball, and more...

Internet _____ 50

Richard Longhurst goes to the movies on the Net.

Memory Management _____ 68

Top tips on juggling your RAM and fine-tuning your PC.

Movie Master 24 _____ 80

New add-in MPEG card from Ace Interactive.

Miro TV Card _____ 83

Take a break, put your feet up and watch the telly.

MTV Club Dead _____ 94

Bizarre video gaming based on the satellite station.

Nickelodeon _____ 60

The wacky children's program descends from satellite to CD.

Olivetti PC _____ 79

The Italian Job – a multimedia PC for under £900.

One Tribe _____ 28

Celebration of the entire human race, and trendy decorating.

One World _____ 32

New from Virgin – is this the best world atlas on CD?

People's Century _____ 56

1,000 photographs in a camera history of this century.

QEMM _____ 69

Quaterdeck's memory management utility.

Romeo and Juliet _____ 64

The BBC, Harper Collins and Attica Cybernetics join forces.

Scottish Open Virtual Golf _____ 95

Scotland's four finest golf courses without the rain and mud.

Secrets of Stargate _____ 59

What's lurking behind the scenes of this Hollywood epic?

William Shakespeare: The Complete Works _____ 65

From All's Well That Ends Well to The Winter's Tale...

Xplora 1 _____ 52

Music, video, Womad, Amnesty International – it's all here...

Yes Active _____ 53

Interactive album sleeve notes? Oh, for heaven's sake!

40 Flight Unlimited

Astonishing photo-realistic scenery, and a flying instructor with artificial intelligence are just two of the great features in Flight Unlimited.



42 Daring to Fly

Daring to be different? We put this off-beat look at the history of aviation through its paces...

44 Aviation Adventure

Just about everything you want to know about flight and flying machines, for ages eight and up.

46 Air Havoc

Now there are two ways to play this game. Keep the planes apart, or crash them into one another – it's up to you...

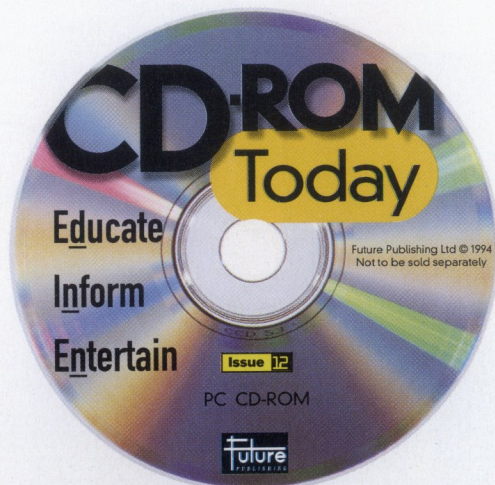


6 Disc Guide

This month's disc is crammed with the best interactive demos to be had. Turn to pages 6 to 10 for your quick-start guide.

Disc Guide

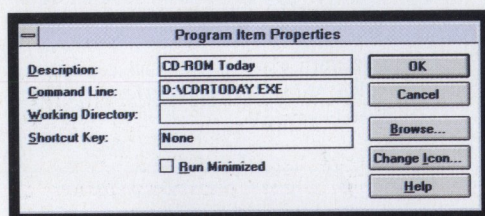
Fit to burst! This month we've squeezed a full 670Mb of absolutely brilliant demos and full programs onto the disc. Matthew Richards shows you how to get up and running...



CD-ROM Today program

Windows Quick Start

If you've used one of our coverdiscs before and still have a *CD-ROM Today* icon on your Windows desktop, you can use it to launch this disc as well.



▲ Quick-starting the coverdisc on the PC... Just select 'File' from the Windows Program menu, then select 'New'. Use 'Browse' to select the CDRTODAY.EXE file, then simply double-click the new icon...

If this is your first *CD-ROM Today* disc, insert it, and from the Windows 3.1 Program Manager, select NEW... from the FILE menu. Choose NEW PROGRAM ITEM and enter the details shown above (where D: is your CD-ROM drive).

You'll notice a bit of Windows silliness when you click OK in the dialog box. A message suggests that the CD-ROM is on a network path, and that the file may not be available later. This just means you can't run the program unless the disc is in the drive. When the prompt asks if you want to continue, simply click the Yes button.

This creates a new icon that you can double-click to launch *CD-ROM Today*. The icon will be placed in the program group that you were in when you ran the FILE, NEW... command. If you would rather have the icon in a different group, simply select it with the mouse, and holding the left button down, drag it to another group.

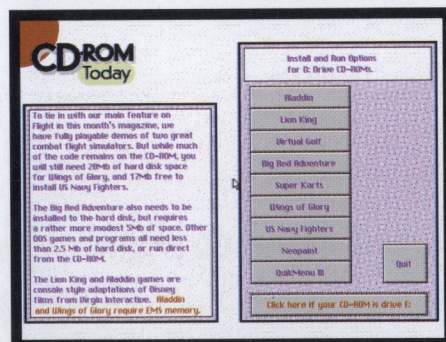
You can also copy the icon file (CDRTODAY.ICO) to your hard drive and then select it with the change icon option. This means that Windows won't lose the icon picture if you change screen resolution or colour depth later on.

DOS Quick Start

We've tried to make installing and running DOS demos as simple as possible, with our specially designed front end. At the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive (normally drive D:) just type GO, then press the Return key on your keyboard.

A menu screen will appear on the screen with buttons for choosing the various DOS demos. There are four pages in the menu; one each for CD-ROM drives set as drive D: through to drive G:.

Some DOS programs will run directly from the disc, while others might need a few files to be installed on your hard disk. In this case, there will be a pop-up menu for Install and Run choices. Choose Install first to set the program up, then you can use the Run option next time around.



▲ To run the DOS menu system, type GO at the prompt of your CD-ROM drive, normally D:

How to run video clips

To watch video clips, you'll need Video for Windows. If you don't have it, use the run-time version stored on the disc. To set it up, select RUN from your Windows FILE, RUN... command, and launch SETUP.EXE in the VFWM11 directory.

Some demos use QuickTime for Windows. You can install this, if you don't already have it, by selecting SETUP.EXE in the QTSETUP directory.



The *CD-ROM Today* program divides the disc into colour-coded sections. Click the button for the section you're interested in, and you'll be given information on this month's programs and demos.

You'll be able to install or run most of the Windows software straight from the *CD-ROM Today* program by clicking the appropriate buttons. If you have memory constraints, or you find there are palette problems and the display colours are wrong, the following pages give details on running programs manually, from the Windows Program Manager.

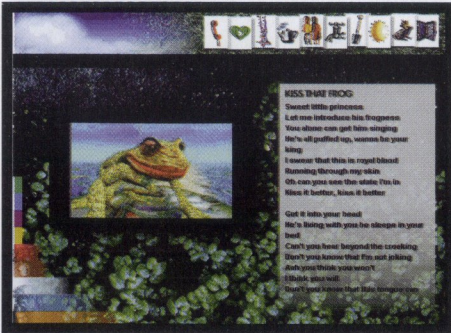
For DOS demos, we've also included a DOS interface on the disc. The instructions are set out in the middle column of this page, just to the left.

System requirements

(Minimum Hardware)
386SX, 4Mb memory, CD-ROM drive, Windows compatible sound card, 256-colour SVGA screen, mouse, and Windows 3.1x

Disclaimer

We carry out exhaustive tests of all the demo software given to us by suppliers for inclusion on the disc. This includes installing and re-installing the software on a wide range of PCs. If there is anything we're not happy about, we simply don't carry the demo. However, we must point out that you use the cover disc at your own risk and that Future Publishing cannot be held responsible for any loss of data.



▲ In this demo of Peter Gabriel's *Secret World*, you'll find the complete video for *Kiss That Frog*.

Xplora 1 (Win)

Xplora 1, Peter Gabriel's *Secret World* is a stylish tour of the artist's musical exploits. Heralded as a ground-breaking project when it was released for the Macintosh a year ago, it's now available for the PC as well, and still packs a hefty punch.

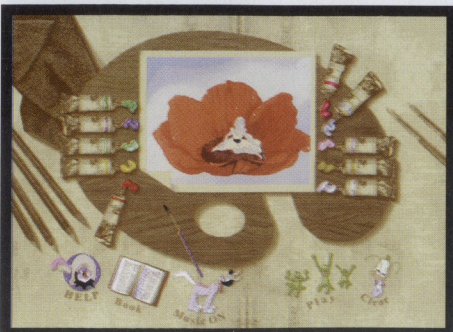
Our fully interactive demo includes lots to see and do, including the video for *Kiss That Frog*, and footage of the rehearsals for *Steam*, performed at the Grammy awards, but you'll have to find the tickets first.

You can set up the *Xplora 1* demo from the Entertainment section of the *CD-ROM Today* program. Alternatively, use the Windows File, Run... menu command, and select the SETUP.EXE file from the root directory of the CD. You'll also need QuickTime and Video for Windows.

Mirage ☎ 01260 299909

Thumbelina and Peter and the Wolf (Win)

The CD edition of *Thumbelina* combines Don Bluth's exquisite, animated film with the text of the original story, and some games and activities. Our interactive demo version features the first of the seven chapters on the disc.



▲ Our interactive demo of *Thumbelina* includes all the text, narration and children's activities from the first chapter of the disc.

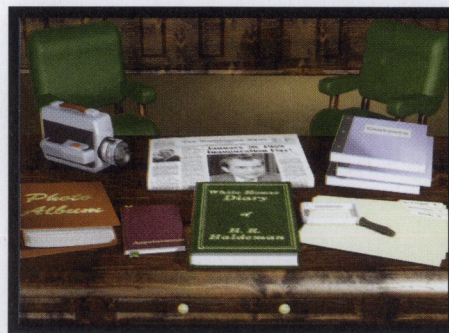
The Haldeman Diaries (Win)

Last month we had a full review of this excellent disc in the magazine. Bob Haldeman was Richard Nixon's Chief of Staff, and his meticulous diaries chronicled the period from Nixon's beginnings at the Whitehouse, up until the aftermath of the Watergate scandal.

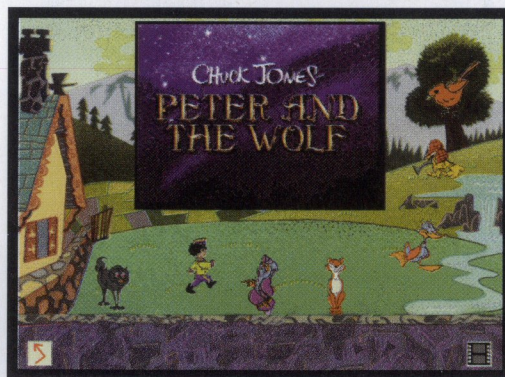
Our interactive demo includes all the text entries, film clips and photos for four months in 1972.

You won't need to install anything on your hard disk to run this demo, which is part of the Sony sampler, but you will need to have QuickTime for Windows set up. To start the demo version of *The Haldeman Diaries*, click the Run button in the Reference section of *CD-ROM Today*.

Sony/Psygnosis ☎ 0151 709 5755



▲ The virtual desk provides quick point and click access to the diary, appointments book, photo album, daily paper and film camera.



▲ The CD-ROM of *Peter and the Wolf* (a young person's guide to the orchestra) adds animation and the voices of Kirstie Alley and Lloyd Bridges.

Peter and the Wolf is a mostly rolling demo. You can install or run both from the *CD-ROM Today* program or by using Windows File, Run... menu and selecting SETUP.EXE in the THUMB directory, or PETER in the PETER directory.

Time Warner ☎ 01604 602800



▲ You can launch the main Sony demos from within the *CD-ROM Today* program, or install this menu system by running the Sony setup.

Sony Sampler (Win)

Apart from *The Haldeman Diaries*, this Sony sampler also includes interactive demos of *ABC News Earthquake*, *The Wilson Management Course*, *The MDI Product Sampler*, and a rolling demo of the CD version of American game shows, *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*.

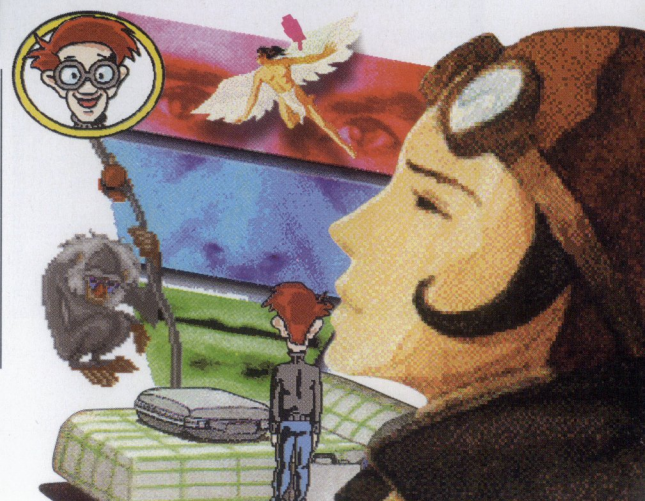
You can run the main demos direct from the *CD-ROM Today* program, or install the Sony sampler by using the Windows File, Run... pull-down menu and selecting SETUP.EXE in the SONYSMPL sub-directory of the disc.

The sampler runs direct from the CD, but you'll need QuickTime for Windows installed on your hard drive.

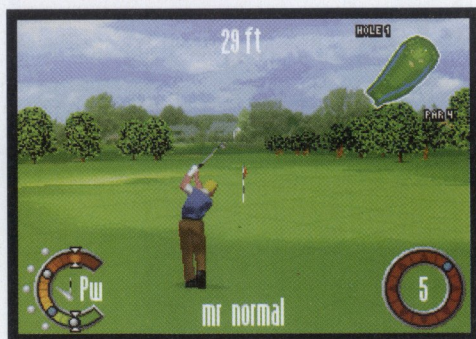
Sony/Psygnosis ☎ 0151 709 5755



Continued overleaf ▶



Virtual Golf (DOS)



▲ Press the Space-bar to see a full list of the keyboard commands. To quit the game, press Escape, then the Q key.

With our fully playable demo of this new multi-player golf game from Core Design you can tee off at Carnoustie for the Virtual Scottish Open. The demo version runs direct from the CD, with options for mouse or joystick control.

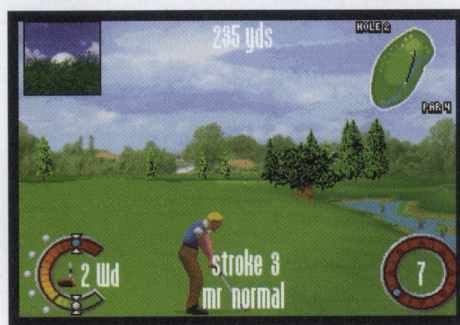
Choose practice or match play from the options menu, then test your skill on the fairways. When you're taking a swing

the idea is to click the mouse to begin the swing, click again when the indicator reaches the suggested position, then a third time when it reaches the bottom of the dial.

There are all sorts of static and dynamic views, and aiming controls in the game. Press the space-bar while you're playing to see a complete list of commands.

Type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive to load our menu system, or change to the GOLF sub-directory of the disc (normally drive D:), type GOLF, and press Enter. To quit, Press Esc, then Q.

Core Design ☎ 01332 297797



▲ The Origin catalogue from Electronic Arts includes a special offer for Wing Commander III.

Origin Catalogue (Win)

Origin games are marketed by Electronic Arts, and this interactive catalogue introduces the entire product range. Run the catalogue from the CD-ROM Today program, or use the Windows File, Run... menu and select the CATALOG.EXE file in the \WINGDEMO\CATALOG sub-directory of the disc.

Electronic Arts ☎ 01753 549442

Daring to Fly (Win)

We review this stylish account of humankind's obsession with flight on page 42 of the magazine. This rolling demo will introduce you to the main features of the disc, which claims to cover everything from Icarus to the Red Baron.

You'll need Video for Windows to run the demo, and you can check this and install it, if necessary, in the Video Utilities section of CD-ROM Today.

You can also use our front end to launch the demo, or use the Windows File, Run... menu and select DTFDEMO.EXE in the ARNOWITZ sub-directory.

Maxis ☎ 0171 490 2333



▲ Meet those magnificent men (and women) in their flying machines, with Daring to Fly.

Coral Reef (Win)



▲ Beautiful illustration and underwater video and photography are the basis for this disc.

From Arnowitz Studios (makers of Daring to Fly) we also have a rolling demo version of Coral Reef.

As you've probably guessed, this disc concentrates on the world beneath the waves with a feast of underwater wildlife photography and video.

You don't need to install anything on your hard drive to run either of the Arnowitz demos, but you will need to have Video for Windows set up.

You can run Coral Reef from the CD-ROM Today program, or by selecting CRPROMO.EXE in the ARNOWITZ directory with Windows File, Run... menu.

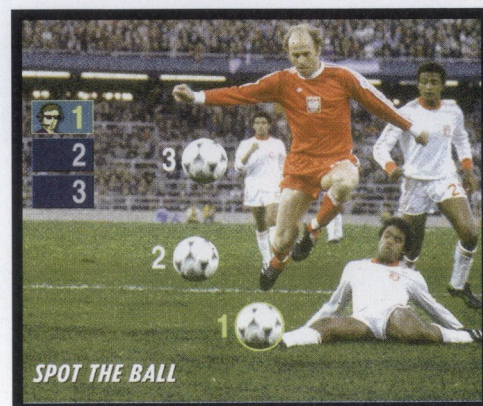
Maxis ☎ 0171 490 2333

Football Encyclopedia (Win)

This concentrates on all the facts and stats behind the history of World Cup soccer. Following last month's review in the magazine, this rolling demo shows off some of the sights and sounds of the disc.

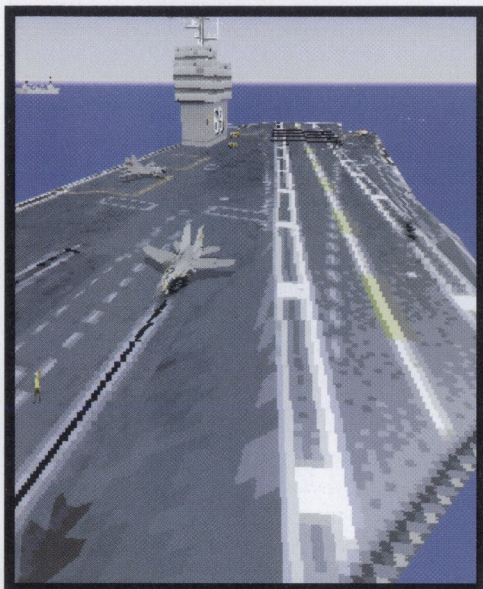
You'll need QuickTime for Windows version 1.x (it won't work with version 2), but apart from that, the whole demo runs direct from the CD. With the Windows File, Run... menu, select ENGLISH.EXE in the ENGLISH directory of the disc, or launch it from CD-ROM Today. To quit the demo once it's running, press the Alt F4 key combination.

Koch Media ☎ 01252 714340



▲ The Football Encyclopedia has facts, stats, biographies, and the odd cliché of a game.

US Navy Fighters (DOS)



▲ It's a bit of an epic, this one. Amazingly detailed screens, full-screen video, ultra-fast gameplay, and a list of keyboard commands as long as your arm (that's them on the right of the page).

First, a little word of warning. This fully playable flight sim demo's terribly wonderful, however it requires a stonking 17Mb of hard drive space for installation. But it's worth every byte, and hey, you can always type Deltree USNFDEMO to delete it again if you don't want to keep it.

Here's how to get up and running. Type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD drive to load our menu system, or change to the USNF directory and INSTALL. Follow the on-screen instructions to set up the demo of the game.

Once it's all loaded, click New Mission on the control screen (practice missions are not included in the demo version).

While you're flying the plane, you can get access to pull-down menus by pressing the Escape key on the keyboard. Just about every other key does something as well. On the right of the page you'll find a complete list of keyboard commands.

You can fly *US Navy Fighters* with keyboard, mouse or joystick. All the options are available in the demo.

Electronic Arts ☎ 01753 549442

US Navy fighters. Controls:

Joystick Commands	
Button 0	Fire Current Weapon
Button 1	Next Visible Target
Thrustmaster Commands	
Hat	Slew View
Top	Fire Current Weapon
Trigger	Fire Gun
Middle	Next Visible Target
Bottom	Select Next Weapon
Aircraft Control Commands	
Arrows	Move Control Stick
1	Set 0% Thrust
2	Set 30% Thrust
3	Set 50% Thrust
4	Set 75% Thrust
5	Set 100% Thrust
6	Afterburner
7	Decrease Thrust 5%
8	Increase Thrust 5%
f	Toggle Flaps
b	Toggle Air/Wheel Brakes
g	Toggle Landing Gear
h	Toggle Arrestor Hook
End	Rudder Left
PgDn	Rudder Right
a	Toggle Autopilot
Sh E	Eject
Weapon Commands	
[]	Next/Previous Weapon
Space	Fire Selected Weapon
Tab	Fire Internal Gun
Ins	Drop Chaff
Del	Drop Flare
j	Toggle Jammers
J	Jettison Fuel Tanks
K	Jettison Air-Ground Ordinance
Radar/Targeting Commands	
Enter	Target Next Visible Object
.	Target Obj Closest to Centre
t T	Target Next/Previous Object
r	Toggle Radar Seeker
i	Toggle IR Seeker
m	Toggle HARM Seeker
y	Toggle Radar History
..	Zoom In/Out for all Pop-ups
Cockpit Instrumentation Commands	
n	Toggle HUD mode (Nav/Weapon)
w W	Next/Previous Waypoint
Ctrl z	Show direction to nearest enemy plane
Ctrl a	Show direction to nearest friendly plane
Ctrl x	Show direction to nearest ground target
d	Damage Report
u	IFF Squawk
Sh [Dim HUD
Sh]	Brighten HUD
Wingman Commands	
Alt 1	Go Straight for 10 Seconds
Alt 2	Break Left 180 degrees
Alt 3	Break Right 180 degrees
Alt 4	Break Low 70 degrees
Alt 5	Break High 70 degrees
Alt 6	Left Approach to Target
Alt 7	Right Approach to Target
Alt 8	Low Approach to Target
Alt 9	High Approach to Target
Alt t	Formation Echelon/line abreast/astern
Alt h	Horizontal Formation 500ft/2,000ft
Alt v	Vertical Formation 500ft/same/-500ft
Alt c	Formation Control: Medium/Loose
Alt e	Target Object
Alt r	Target Object & Keep Formation
Alt w	Engage all Objects similar to Target
Alt p	Protect
Alt d	Disengage
Alt b	Bug Out (Go Home)
Alt s	Toggle Radio Silence
Display/View Commands	
F1	Cockpit, looking forward
F2	Cockpit, looking back
F3	Cockpit, looking up
F4	Cockpit, tracking target
F5	Player > Missile Threat
F6	Player > Wingman
F7	Player > Target
F8	Target > Player
F9	Fly-by
F10	External View of Player
F12	Missile > Target
Alt	Set View Relative to Current Target
Ctrl	Set View Relative to Last Missile
Arrows	Slew View (Use Rt Sh if using keys)
5	Return to Straight Ahead
+	Zoom In/Out
Backspace	Toggle Cockpit On/Off
Shift 1	Toggle Flight Envelope Window
Shift 2	Toggle Forward View Window
Shift 3	Toggle Check Six Window
Shift 4	Toggle Gun Camera Window
Shift 5	Toggle RWR Window
Shift 6	Toggle NAV Window
Shift 7	Toggle Weapon Stat Window
Shift 8	Toggle System Status Window
Shift 9	Toggle Radar Window
v	Current View into Check Six Window
System Commands	
c	Cycle through Time Compression Rates
C	Set Slow Motion Time Compression
Ctrl p	Pause Game
Ctrl q	End Mission
Ctrl c	Exit to DOS
Esc	Go to Pull-down Menus



▲ Chocks away, and it's dogfight mayhem all the way in this WWI flight sim.

Wings of Glory (DOS)

To install the excellent, fully playable *Wings of Glory* WWI flight sim demo, type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD drive to load our menu system. Alternatively, you can change to the WINGDEMO sub-directory of the CD and type INSTALL.

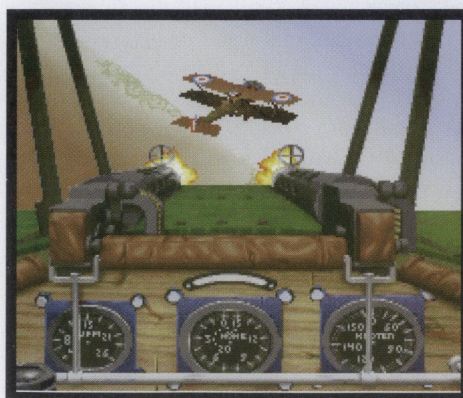
The bad news is that this game needs an enormous 20Mb of hard disk space for installation into a sub-directory called WGDEMO. The good news is that as soon as it's installed, you can delete the CATALOG sub-directory (which you don't need) by typing: DELTREE C:\WGDEMO\CATALOG at the DOS prompt. This reduces the space required to a mere 10Mb. You'll also need to have EMS memory enabled. Instructions on setting up EMS memory are given

overleaf, but refer to your DOS manual if you need more detailed information.

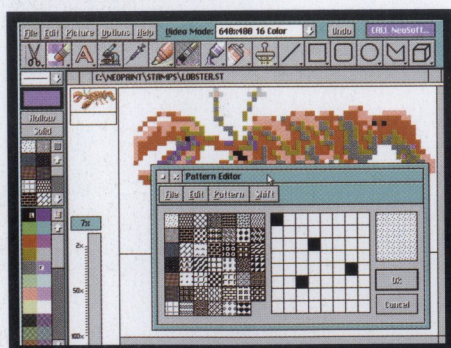
To run the demo, use our menu system, this time clicking the Run option, or change to the new WGDEMO directory of your hard drive and type WG.

The demo has options for keyboard, mouse and joystick controls. Once your propeller is whirling, press the + key a few times to get full revs and take to the skies. You can also use numbers 1 to 0 for fine tuning engine power, and the cursor keys mimic joystick movement. Use the space-bar for machine guns, and Function keys for different views. To quit the demo, press the Alt X key combination.

Electronic Arts ☎ 01753 549442



▲ Don't fly straight and level for more than a few seconds, and watch your back!

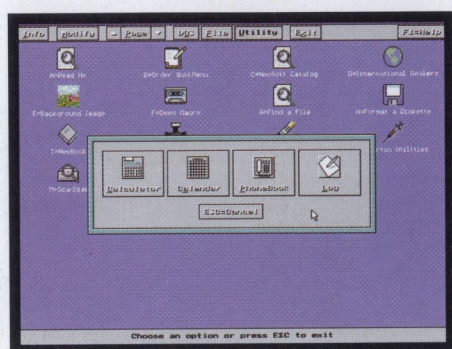


Neopaint (DOS)

One of the finest DOS paint packages around, *Neopaint* is a superb program. This shareware version includes the complete range of features and facilities, plus an exhaustive selection of printer drivers.

There's full on-line help available, plus a collection of sample clip-art. You can install and run *Neopaint* from our DOS and Windows front-ends.

Testware Publishing ☎ 01423 886415



QuikMenu III (DOS)

I have to say that this is my favourite DOS menu system, and I've been using it at home for the last year or so. It provides a great graphical interface for launching all your DOS applications, which is also extremely easy to set up.

Use our DOS menu to install it, then change to the QUIKMEN directory of your hard drive and type QM to start.

Testware Publishing ☎ 01423 886415

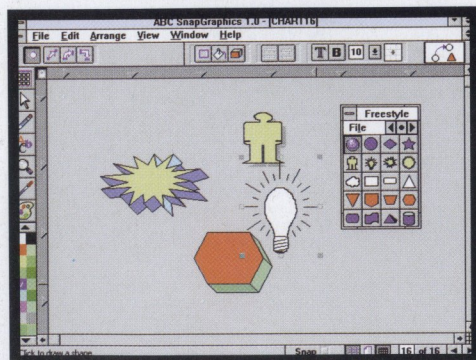
Snap Graphics (Win)

From Micrografx, here's the complete version of the powerful Windows draw and paint package, *Snap Graphics 1.0*. It includes all the features and facilities, including all the templates and clip-art, save and print options.

You can install the *Snap Graphics* from the Application section of our *CD-ROM Today* program. Alternatively, with the Windows File, Run... pull-down menu, select the INSTALL.EXE file in the \APPS\SNAP directory of the CD (normally drive D:).

Full help is available in the program once it's installed.

Micrografx ☎ 01483 747526



▲ Snap Graphics takes diagrams and flow charts in its stride with built-in templates and clip-art.



Super Karts (DOS)

Designed by Oxford based developer, Manic Media, and marketed by Virgin Interactive Entertainment, *Super Karts* is an action packed kart racing simulator.

This exciting, fully playable demo features the London Docklands circuit from the full CD-ROM edition.

Install it from our DOS menu, or change to the KART directory of the disc and type INSTALL at the prompt.

Virgin ☎ 0181 960 2255

CD-ROM performance

Even double-speed CD-ROM drives are considerably slower than hard disks. However, hard disk space is always at a premium, so we decided to set up the whole *CD-ROM Today* program to run directly from the CD-ROM. This means you don't have to worry about installing it – but you might have to be a little patient while some parts are loading, especially if you're using a slower machine.



▲ You've seen the film (probably), now play the game. Run, jump, climb and roar (or at least, squeak) to overcome your adversaries.

Lion King & Aladdin (DOS)

Both of these games run direct from the CD, so you don't need to install anything on your hard drive. The sound is set up for Sound Blaster compatibility, and you'll need EMS memory emulation for Aladdin.

You can launch the games from our menu system (type GO to load it). If you want to install the games on your hard drive, change to the DISNEY directory of the CD and type LIONINST, or ALADINST, then press Enter. Follow the on-screen instructions for selecting sound hardware.

Use the arrow keys, Ctrl and Alt keys to play the games. Based on the Disney films, the games are marketed by Virgin Interactive Entertainment.

Virgin ☎ 0181 960 2255



▲ Fight your way past armed guards and falling vases in the first level of Aladdin. The Genie looks more and more fraught as time runs out.

Setting up EMS Memory

Aladdin and *Wings of Glory* on this month's coverdisc require EMS (Expanded Memory). If you need to configure your 386 or 486 PC to emulate EMS memory for these programs, this is how to go about it. (Refer to your DOS manual for more details).

First, you need this line to load the HIMEM device driver (it's probably there already):

DEVICE=C:\DOS\HIMEM.SYS

Following that, you need a line that reads:

DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE RAM

If you have a line that reads:

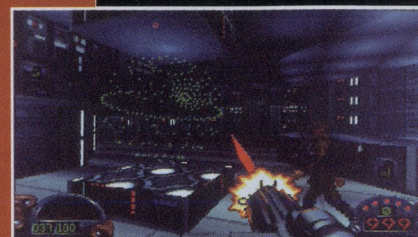
DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE NOEMS
change the NOEMS to RAM instead. This emulates EMS memory on 386 and 486-based PCs.

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TIE FIGHTER™ AND X-WING™
COMES A NEW DIMENSION IN STAR WARS® ENTERTAINMENT

STAR WARS DARK FORCES



CAN YOU SMELL THE
FOUL STENCH
OF EVIL?

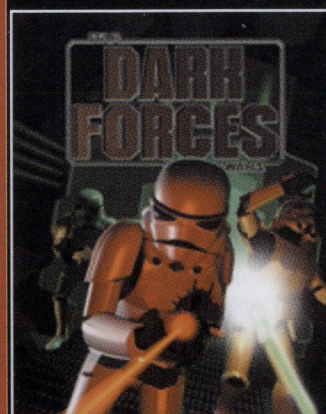
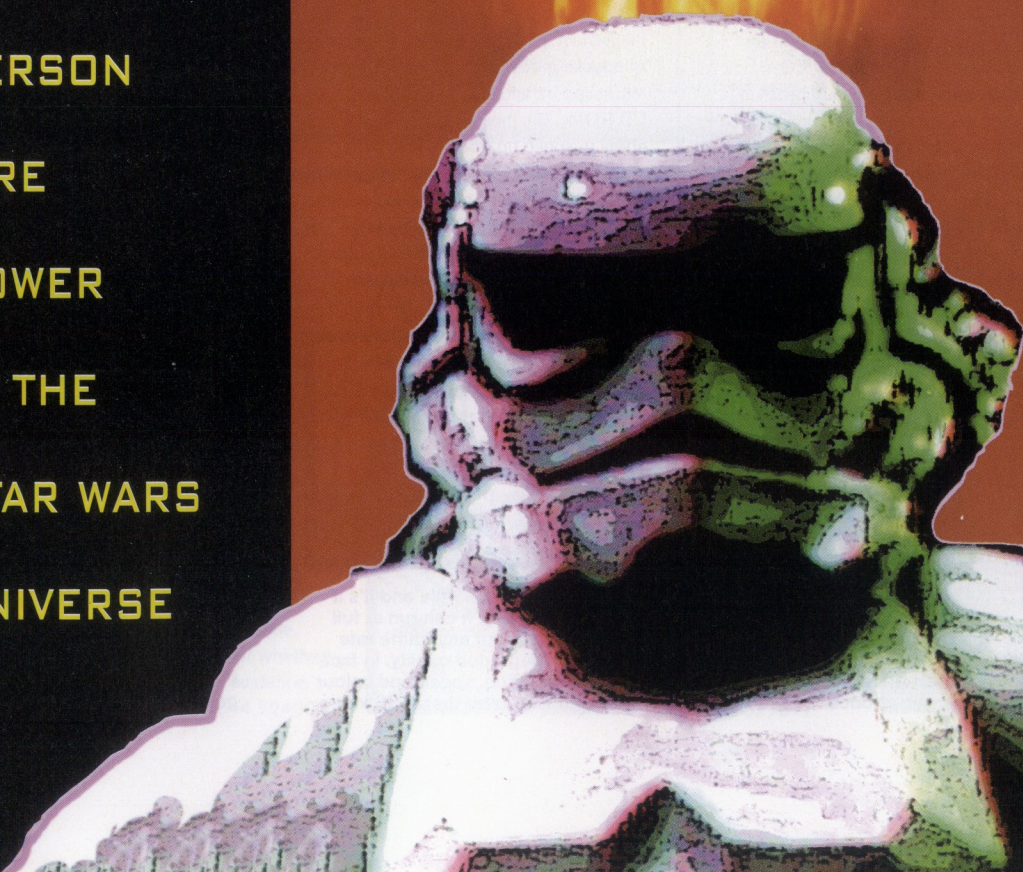


CAN YOU LOOK DEATH AND
DISTRESS IN THE FACE?
ARE YOU READY TO FACE



FIRST
PERSON
FIRE
POWER
IN THE
STAR WARS
UNIVERSE

THE DARK SIDE ?



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Editor's corner



It's high time suppliers stopped selling multimedia PCs that don't cut the mustard. There's a difference between something working, and it actually being usable...

There's no shortage of suppliers falling over themselves to sell PCs. There's no shortage of technical jargon either. Should you go for a Pentium, or will a 486 be fast enough? Should the motherboard be PCI or VESA local bus? Is a 16-bit sound card a safe bet?

In an effort to outdo each other in the PC price wars, there's one area where suppliers are cutting corners. How many times have you seen MPCs advertised with 4Mb of memory? Whatever else is falling in price, RAM remains an expensive commodity at around £30 per Mb. Sell a machine with 4Mb, rather than 8Mb, and you instantly knock £120 off the price of the machine.

But the fact of the matter is that 4Mb PCs have a hard enough time running Windows. Try and run your average multimedia program on top of Windows, and there's enough time to make a cup of coffee after every mouse click. Of course, suppliers are more than happy to sell you more RAM, but who wants to rip the covers off a brand new machine and start poking around inside?

Software suppliers are just as bad. Packaging often shows a minimum 4Mb specification clearly marked on the box. But once you've got the manual out, you'll invariably find '8Mb recommended' in the text.

There's a difference between something working with 4Mb of RAM, and it actually being usable. It's a shame that suppliers who are so keen to sell their wares to every sector of the market don't see things the same way.

Matthew

Software-only MPEG playback with...

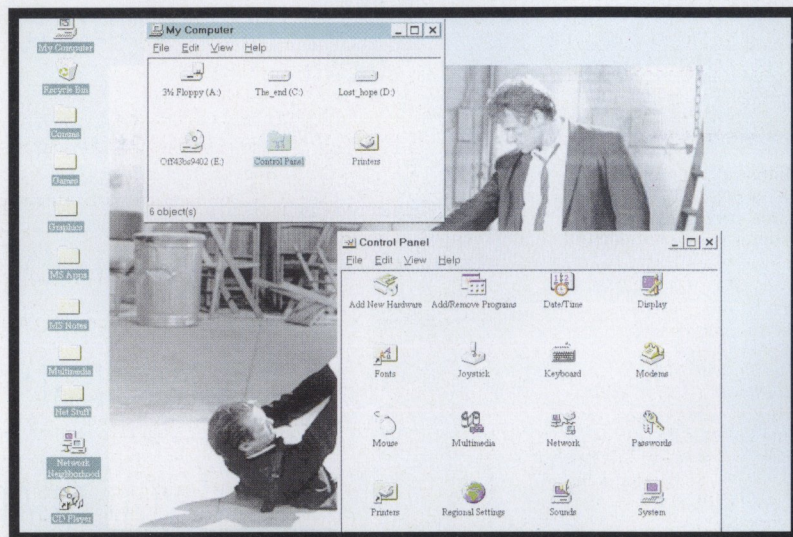


Windows '95

Less than six months since the announcement of MPEG, and already it's taking over the industry. And although you need special hardware cards such as RealMagic or the Movie Master 24 to decompress MPEG files, even these could become as redundant as QuickTime 1.0.

The reason is an item of proprietary software from Medianatics (which has been working in conjunction with Microsoft) that is capable of decoding MPEG data, real-time, in full-screen, at a rate of 25 frames per second, without the need for special hardware. This frame rate is quoted for a Pentium-based system, and is likely to drop as you move down the processor spec to the lower-end 486s, simply because the software is heavily processor dependent. That means that when you're playing MPEG movies you're not going to be able to have much else going on at the same time, but even that is a small price to pay for being able to watch MPEG feature films without having to fork out over £200 on hardware.

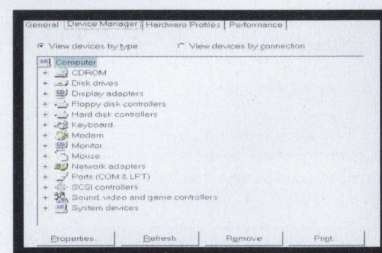
We mention that Microsoft is in on the act, because to run the MPEG decompression software you'll need an operating system capable of running it. And that is, of course, Microsoft's Windows '95, scheduled for release in August. Windows '95 has been optimised for multimedia applications, showing Microsoft's acknowledgment of the importance of the home market. Built into



▲ Windows '95: it'll change the way you view multimedia, with enhanced support for sound, video, and graphics accelerator hardware.

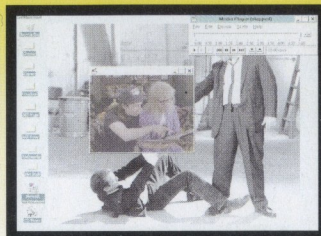
the system are enhanced sound drivers for all popular makes of sound card, better MIDI support, and auto-starting for CD-ROMs. But most impressive is its ability to speed up video – even the dreadful Video for Windows .AVI files that have been the stamp of PC video over the past couple of years will play better.

With the ability to use MPEG playback software, Windows '95 should soon



▲ Plug in a new hardware device, and Windows '95 will be able to detect it automatically, load up appropriate drivers, and sort out any possible hardware conflicts.

See the difference



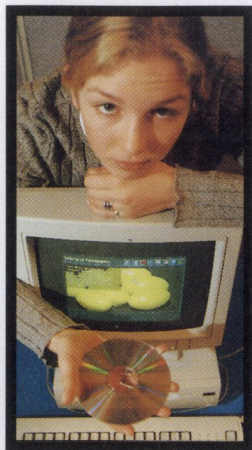
▲ Video on the PC as we know it – a normal .AVI Video for Windows file, played with the Media Player. It's small, grainy, and jerks like Hell when there's lots of movement on screen at once.



▲ Take an MPEG file and it's a different story. It can run at full screen without any frame rate loss or degraded quality. In fact, the resolution, speed and colour depth is greater than VHS video.

establish itself as the operating system to use if you're serious about multimedia. It will be possible, for example, for Microsoft to develop a Windows '95 version of *Cinemanía* with full-screen video clips, and that will be a great improvement on the current postage-stamp video that we have to suffer. And what, you're thinking, will you need to run this new system? Microsoft are claiming a 386DX with 4Mb will be able to do it, but to get any real benefits over Windows 3.1 you're going to need a 486DX2 with 8Mb of RAM, and preferably a Pentium with 16Mb. You've got five months to save up the cash.

Drugs? Just say SCET



Multimedia technology is being deployed to fight the drugs problem as part of a program by the combined forces of the Scottish Council for Educational Technology (SCET), Strathclyde Regional Council and the Strathclyde Police.

Sold to schools for drugs education classes in England and Scotland, SCET's *Raw Deal* CD-ROM provides young adults in school with all kinds of information on different drugs, situations in which drug use arises and the legal consequences of becoming involved in the drugs scene. The package was designed for 16- to 18-year-olds.

For £40, teachers will have a new tool to use in warning pupils against the dangers of drug use through video, graphics, sound and text – all from the *Raw Deal* disc.

SCET ☎ 0141 337 5000

Explore anatomy with Body Park

Aiming to teach four- to ten-year-olds about human anatomy, nutritional awareness, and health and safety, *Body Park* presents children with an interactive amusement park in the shape of a body.

Guiding Albert the cat and his friends around the park, the object is to find their missing friend, Harvey, who is held captive by the wicked Frankenslime. As they explore, children will find a variety of educational games that teach them about anatomy at the various rides and sideshows scattered around *Body Park*.

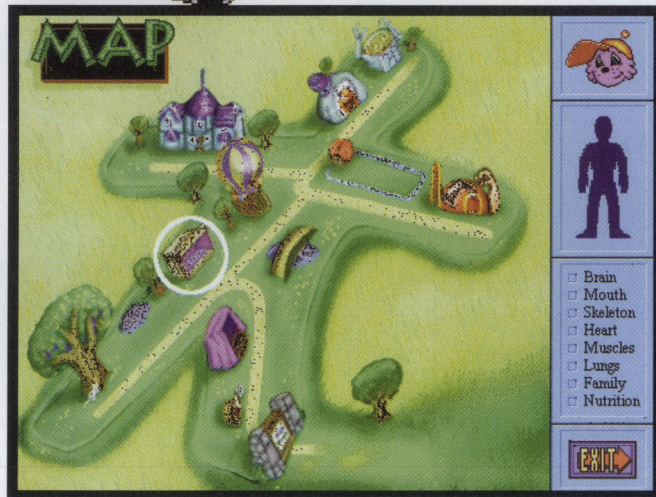
Written by a team consisting of representatives from the Montessori school system and researchers from MIT and Harvard, the disc

will, TecMagik claims, be fun for children to play by themselves, with friends or with parents.

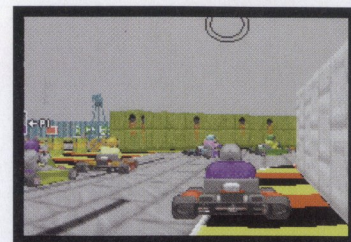
Also on the way from TecMagik is the peculiarly titled *Rosemary West's House of Fortunes*. Patently not based on the so-called Cromwell Street House of Horrors, and nothing to do with the Rosemary West currently on remand for nine murders, the disc offers Astrology, Numerology, I Ching, Crystal Ball and Tarot Card readings.

Body Park and *House of Fortune* will be available from the end of March for £40 and £25 respectively.

TecMagik ☎ 0171 486 3202



▲ The *Body Park* is a disc that teaches kids all about human anatomy.



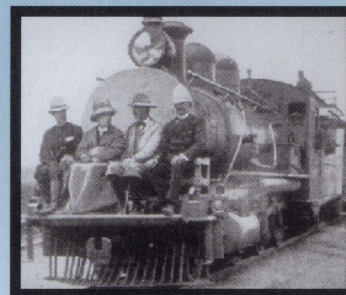
SuperKarts

Consultations with Michael Schumacher's Benetton Formula 1 team combined with an amazing graphics engine have led to *SuperKarts* from Manic Media, a fast and fun racing game. Unlike similar racing sims, the karts you race against have enough artificial intelligence to drive the courses by themselves and can take corners without crashing into you constantly. *SuperKarts* costs £50 – watch out for the review next month.

Virgin ☎ 0181 960 2255

Infotainment!

One man's trivia is another man's brain food, they say, so here are a few facts to nourish you...



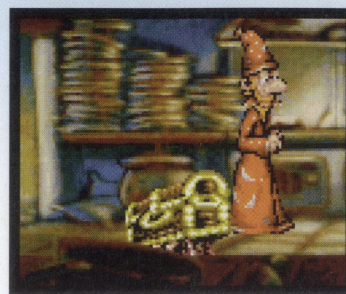
During the late 19th Century the British decided to take over the African land known as Uganda. In 1901 a rail line from the African coast into the colony was completed.

The People's Century, page 56.



The Egyptian god, Geb, god of earth, was said to be the father of both Ra, the sun, and Thoth, the moon. He had a sister called Nut and was depicted as a giant goose.

The Secrets of Stargate, page 59.



Rincewind, the rather inept magician, is the star of *Discworld*, the imaginative creation of Terry Pratchett, who describes himself as: "born in 1948 and still not dead."

Discworld, page 24.

Investigate Marilyn



You will soon be able to investigate the mystery behind the death of 60's actress and sex symbol,

Marilyn Monroe, with a new disc in the Novell/WordPerfect *Main Street* line.

Pitched at a teenage audience, *Hard Evidence: The Marilyn Monroe Files* questions whether the coroner's verdict of suicide was correct. Visiting friends of Marilyn and reviewing records of the case, you'll be able to raise the question of whether there was a cover-up of important evidence.

Novell ☎ 01344 724000

A quick 6X

Belgian firm Plextor has produced the world's first sextuple speed CD-ROM drive. With a 900kb/sec data transfer rate, 145ms random access speed and a 256kb buffer, the 6PleX is an internal drive that will connect to your PC via a SCSI interface.

The new drive will be available from April, and an external version will follow. Prices are tentatively

set at £410 for the internal, and £470 for the external version of the 6PleX.

Plextor products are available from Tekdata ☎ 01782 577677.





Flight Unlimited™ is the most realistic flight simulator ever developed for the PC. Featuring innovative 3D texture mapped scenery and a unique physics model, Flight Unlimited™ gives you the opportunity to take control of some of the hottest, fastest planes ever built. You have the chance to master the Sukhoi SU - 31, Pitts Special S - 2A, Extra 300S, Bellanca Decathlon or the Grob Sailplane S103, through over 30 comprehensive flight lessons developed by a certified aerobatics instructor.

With three specialised cockpits and five exterior cameras you will have total control over your view and perspective as you test your new found flying expertise on the challenging aerial obstacle courses. All this coupled with a totally 'live' gameworld enabling you to fly and land where you please, ensures that Flight Unlimited™ is the definitive flight simulation.



**Available on
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A LookingGlass Technologies Production



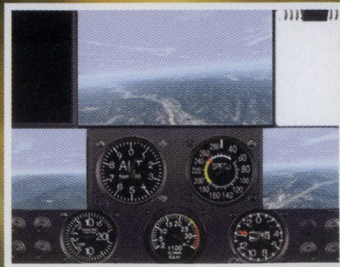
**Distributed by
Virgin Interactive Entertainment Ltd**



FLIGHT

TM

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PC view



Dave Pearman, captain of the starship PC Plus thinks CD-ROMs could be a little faster...

CD-ROM has made a big difference to modern software. Released from the space limitation of a set of floppy disks, publishers can create multimedia masterpieces containing hundreds of megabytes of data.

Trouble is, the more data there is on a disc, the longer it takes to find it. While this may be slightly annoying with reference titles, it ruins the flow of more lively titles, such as games. We're all used to the delay when you click an icon or hypertext link. If you're about to touch down in a 747, these same few seconds can seem like an eternity, as more megabytes of graphics and sound data are hoovered off the CD.

It was while using a reference disc recently that this struck me as a serious problem. The disc, *Star Trek: The Next Generation Interactive Technical Manual*, recreates the technical documentation for the Starship Enterprise (NCC-1701D). All the familiar sights and sounds from the show are there (except the people), and rendered in minute detail. The interface resembles the control panels seen on the ship, and makes all the right noises when buttons are pressed.

Where it all goes horribly wrong is that there's a lengthy (and most un-Enterprise-like) delay whenever you choose another option. You can just imagine the same thing happening in an episode of the show:

Worf: "Sir! Romulan warbird directly ahead, arming forward disruptors!"

Riker: "Red Alert - Shields up! Load torpedo bays, ready phasers!"

Data: "CD-ROM delay, sir - defensive systems and weapons will not be on-line for 8.4 seconds."

Doesn't quite work, does it? This disc is no worse than most, but the delays seem more intrusive because they're unexpected in this context.

What's the cure for the problem? There's no simple one, but there are some things which can help. Buying a quad-speed CD-ROM drive is a good idea, especially now they're available from £150 or so. Having the applications written as multi-threading ones (so something can be going on while data is loading) would help, too, but we'll have to wait for Windows '95 for that...

Oscar winner tells cultural tales

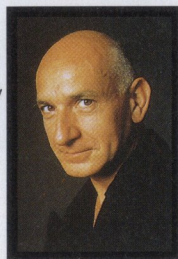
Ben Kingsley narrates Digitales

Academy Award winning British actor Ben Kingsley is transferring his talents from the cinema to the CD with a new children's disc entitled *Kiyeko and the Lost Night*.

Animated in the style of Walt Disney, the CD-ROM is the first in Ubi Soft's *Digitales* series of interactive storybooks. With the Amazonian jungle providing the setting, Kingsley narrates the tale of Kiyeko, a young Indian on a quest to lift a curse that besets his village. The tale is strongly based on the traditional folklore and mythology of endangered tribes in the region.

Exploring the scenery as the story develops, children can find numerous interactive hot spots around the screen that spark off animations, music and speech when clicked. While having fun playing with the screen, kids will be able to follow the story and learn about the culture, legends and traditions of native Amazonians.

Beyond the 8,000 or so frames of hand-drawn animation, there will be 45 minutes of original music, much of it inspired by the tribal rhythms of the region. Although details are sketchy at the moment, Ubi Soft plans to publish a whole range of *Digitales* discs, each focusing on a unique indigenous culture.



"Discs on North American Indians and Australian Aborigines are possibilities at the moment," says Andrew Burgess, a product manager for the series. "We'll be looking at a number of scenarios and evaluating the ones that give us the best story lines." Going beyond the geographic and

legendary angle, Andrew Burgess hopes the series will eventually branch off to tell historical stories as well.

For Ben Kingsley this is a first venture into multimedia. He follows in the footsteps of Steven Spielberg who directed him in *Schindler's List* and who entered an arrangement last year with Knowledge Adventure to produce multimedia.

Also coming soon from Ubi Soft is *Action Soccer*. Continuing the trend of getting high profile narrators, commentary is provided by Jonathan Pearce of Sky Sport. You can choose to play either from the FIFA-style isometric viewpoint or the overhead angle of *Sensible Soccer*. The sprites are huge, up to eight players can compete and there's a zoom facility for set plays.

Ubi Soft ☎ 0181 941 4004

▼ *Kiyeko, the little orange guy to the left, observes some magical snakes.*



Moments of news

More Magic Carpet levels

Bullfrog Productions, the maker of the best-selling *Magic Carpet*, has released a floppy disk with 25 new levels for the game. At £19.99, *Hidden Worlds* has tougher computer opponents and more powerful magic.

Electronic Arts ☎ 01753 549442

Tory policy winners

Ken Livingstone, the former GLC councillor and MP, was recently defeated by a Tory MP, Jerry Hayes, in a public game of *Transport Tycoon*. Both tried to implement their own transport policies in the business simulation and capitalism, apparently, won out. *Transport Tycoon* is a Microprose game.

Microprose ☎ 01454 326532

Quad speed pack

The NEC CDR-271 quad speed drive is the core of a brand new multimedia package from Amitek. For just £199, you get the drive plus *Encarta '95*, *Anecdote*, *Animator* and *Sneak Peeks*. It's available from Silica stores all over the country.

Silica ☎ 0181 309 1111

Logitech's new rodent

It's a mouse. No it's a trackball. Well, actually, it's a TrackMan. The very latest breed of desktop control device from Logitech looks like a mouse but has a trackball built into it. So, you'll be able to control your pointer by either pushing it with your palm or rolling with your finger. TrackMan costs £46.

Logitech ☎ 01344 894300

Virtual swimming lessons

Schoolchildren can now take dry land swimming lessons with a new CD-ROM swimming tutor from CD Sports. Conforming to Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum, *Swimming* provides stroke analysis and includes video, step-by-step instruction and fitness and safety sections. It's available on limited offer for just £14.31 plus P&P.

CD Sports ☎ 0151 691 0893

CD Speed

Fighting back at quad and sextuple speed drives, Data Becker claims that CD Speed boosts access times from discs by up to six times. Working with both DOS and Windows, Data Becker claims that it's easy to install. CD-Speed costs £29.95.

Data Becker ☎ 01420 22707



Video Clash

'Punk is dead, long live Video Clash', is the current cry from Omnimedia as they release a video CD full of videos by The Clash.

Including hits like *Tommy Gun*, and *Train in Vain*, the Video CD standard disc has CD-quality sound and full-screen video, and can be played on any PC with an MPEG board. Also available soon in Video CD format will be *The The's Infected The Movie* and Judas Priest's *Metal Works*.

Distributed by Philips
☎ 0171 911 3000

First pop music ROM single

Europe's first widely available CD-ROM music single is about to hit the shelves, and perhaps the charts as well.

Moral Judgement by Smalltown

Heroes will be available in record shops for around £4. On top of three audio tracks headed up by *Moral Judgement*, the disc will include a CD-ROM track called *Heroes Home Movie*, the band's promotional video.

Also on the disc will be concert footage and a month-by-month, slide show-style history of Smalltown Heroes, covering the years 1987 to 1995. Following the release of the single this month, the band will be embarking on a full UK tour supporting the Jeff Healey Band.

The band's music has been described as a blend of raw, guitar-based rock 'n roll and melodious yet anthemic vocal.

To enter the draw to win one of 25 CD-ROM singles by Smalltown Heroes, send us a postcard marked 'CD-ROM Today' Heroes Compo'.



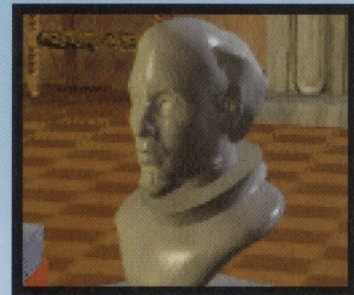
ScreenBeat speakers

For multimedia speakers that don't break the pound barrier, check out the new Logic 3 ScreenBeat range. Sold by SpectraVideo, the 10-watt speakers start at £15 and have built-in bass-boost circuitry and magnetic shielding to prevent monitor interference. For £16, you can get a pair that mounts on the sides of your monitor.

SpectraVideo ☎ 0181 902 2211

Infotainment!

There are masses of facts packed into the discs we've reviewed this month - here's just a taster...



Twelfth Night's romantic setting is Illyria, the Greek and Roman name for the Adriatic territory roughly corresponding to the former Yugoslavia.

William Shakespeare: the Complete Works, page 65.



Lake Mathieson is a beautiful location on New Zealand's South Island, a mountainous place with an extensive lowland called the Canterbury Plains.

One Tribe, page 28.



Concerned about growing Soviet nuclear capabilities and the Korean War, the United States Air Force ordered the long range b-52 bomber into production.

Aviation Adventure, page 44.

Beat'em ups Scrap



Ladies and gentlemen, in the corner to my right, representing Mindscape, is *Warriors*. In the corner to my left, from Gametek, *Super Street Fighter II Turbo*. And I wanna see a dirty fight...

That's right, the beat-'em-up genre will be a hot market for the next few months as these two heavyweights battle it out. In *Warriors*, a super fighter has teleported the world's top ten fighters to his island. As one of these ruffians, you have to battle the others one by one, until you meet the main boss to win your freedom. You might even have to face one of five secret characters as well. Price is TBA.

Super Street Fighter II Turbo was a huge success in the console market. It's been transported to CD-ROM and features 16 fighters, new moves and a more powerful end boss to defeat. It will cost £40 from Gametek.

Gametek ☎ 01753 554340
Mindscape ☎ 01444 246333

RealMagic Producer

Sensing a possible shift towards software-only MPEG decomposition, Sigma Designs is covering its options by releasing an affordable MPEG encoding system for multimedia developers or small business users.

RealMagic Producer includes a 32-bit PCI-bus audio/video MPEG encoder board, Adobe *Premier* video editing software and Caligari's *trueSpace* 3D animation and graphics software, carries a recommended retail price of £3490 plus VAT.

Using the AVI Editable MPEG file format developed by Microsoft and Sigma Designs, the package will enable you to edit MPEG in any AVI compatible video editing program.

Sigma Designs' products are distributed in the UK by GEM.

GEM ☎ 01279 822822



▲ With RealMagic Producer, a Pentium and a gigabyte hard drive you can create MPEG files.



Portable Plug and play

Power Computing has just introduced a portable multimedia console that plugs straight into a notebook PC.

Running through a PCMCIA interface, the Power Multimedia console includes a dual speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit sound card and built-in stereo speakers. Power Multimedia costs £470.

Power Computing
☎ 01234 273000

Coming soon on CD-ROM...



▲ Sumeria, who brought you *Ocean Life*, will move into a new branch of biology with the upcoming disc, *Wild Africa: Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Tarangire*. Exploring the ecology and wildlife of Central Africa, *Wild Africa* will feature 60 minutes of video on 90 species of birds, mammals and reptiles. No price has been set.

Unica ☎ 0161 429 0241



▲ Another sequel, *Simon the Sorcerer II*, is nearly ready for release by Adventure Soft. The new game boasts 100 settings, 50,000 animations, and 100 non-player characters. It will cost £45.

PDO ☎ 0121 625 3377



▼ Over five years of research and development has gone into *Virtua Chess*, one of the most powerful computer chess programs ever. Claimed to be three times as fast as *Chessmaster 4000*, the game has an artificial intelligence routine that can detect your level of skill in a few moves and adjusts itself accordingly. It will cost £45.

Titus ☎ 0171 700 2119



◀ Meet the Baldies. Taking control of these little guys you can go for global conquest in Gametek's upcoming sim.

Heavenly Golf follows Hell

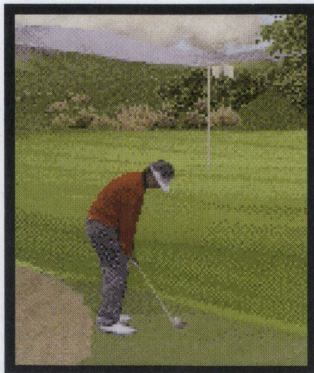
F

ollowing its *Hell* debacle, Gametek is set to release two games that steer clear of the cyber-adventure label.

Fairway to Heaven, which should be available this month, offers 18 holes taken from some of the world's greatest golfing venues. According to Gametek, the holes, which were selected by a panel of experts, come together to represent the most perfect course ever created.

And there's more to it than just driving, chipping and putting. *Fairway to Heaven* includes video footage taken at the actual locations. There are also video clips in which big name money winners such as Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw and Gary Player give tips and share their knowledge on each of the holes.

If you get fed up with the 40 minutes of video footage, you can turn it off and just enjoy the arcade-style gameplay, toggle between seven viewing angles and choose from a multitude of shot options. *Fairway to Heaven* will cost £45.



▲ *Fairway to Heaven* lets you check out 18 of the world's greatest golf holes.

Also set for an April release is *Baldies*, a humorous strategy game featuring claymation-style animations. Controlling a tribe of hairless little humanoids, you'll be pitted against rival tribes who share your goal of dominating the whole world.

Once you've taken over one world, you move on to the next where more bad Baldies will be there to meet you. Within your simulated population of Baldies – characters that resemble the Doozers in *Fraggle Rock* – different classes have different functions. There are worker and soldier Baldies as well as scientists and giants. Each kind of Baldie will be available for your instructions.

With over 100 themed worlds to play, including Egyptian, Medieval and Futuristic, you'll eventually be inventing helicopters and dropping bombs on the opposition. Gametek is quick to emphasise that this game is nothing like either *Lemmings*, or traditional conquest sims. No Price has been confirmed.

Gametek ☎ 01753 553445

Moments of news

Zye budget range

A new sound card has joined Zye Technology's Soundware range. Audio Sound 16 costs £118 and has a 16-bit chipset with a 20 voice stereo synthesizer. It's Sound Blaster compatible and has a MIDI transmit and receive port.

For quick proof scanning, Zye has introduced the Addup Grey Scale Scanner. With a 400 dpi resolution, it will scan in 32 greys and costs £118. The 24 Bit Colour Scanner has the same resolution but supports 16.8 million colours and will set you back £199.

Zye Technology ☎ 01293 538666

Le Louvre on CD

Montparnasse Multimedia is bringing France's most famous art gallery, Le Louvre, to CD-ROM. Over 100 paintings from the major European schools of art are included, with commentary, a magnifying zoom feature and artists' biographies. There's also a section on the history and architecture of the gallery.

BMG ☎ 0171 973 0011

EA buys Bullfrog

Bullfrog, the British games developer whose *Theme Park* and *Magic Carpet* topped last year's CD-ROM games charts has been acquired by the computer giant, Electronic Arts. Already the distributor for Bullfrog, EA seems to be letting the Surrey-based firm continue on as usual.

Pevsner's buildings

Between 1947 and 1972, Nikolaus Pevsner toured Britain's most notable buildings and compiled the 46 volume architectural guide, *The Buildings of England*. Now, you can buy a CD-ROM companion to the guide. *A Compendium of Pevsner's Buildings of England* contains a powerful database of Pevsner's 300,000 entries. It costs £347.

Oxford University Press
☎ 01536 741519

History of Film

Attica Cybernetics, in conjunction with the British Film Institute, has begun work on a multimedia guide to the history of film and cinema. The CD is to be produced in time to celebrate the centenary of film technology and will probably be on the shelves by early next year.

Attica Cybernetics
☎ 01865 791346



Simply the most advanced and powerful chess game ever

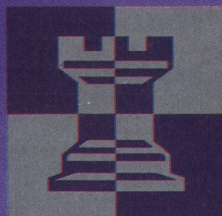
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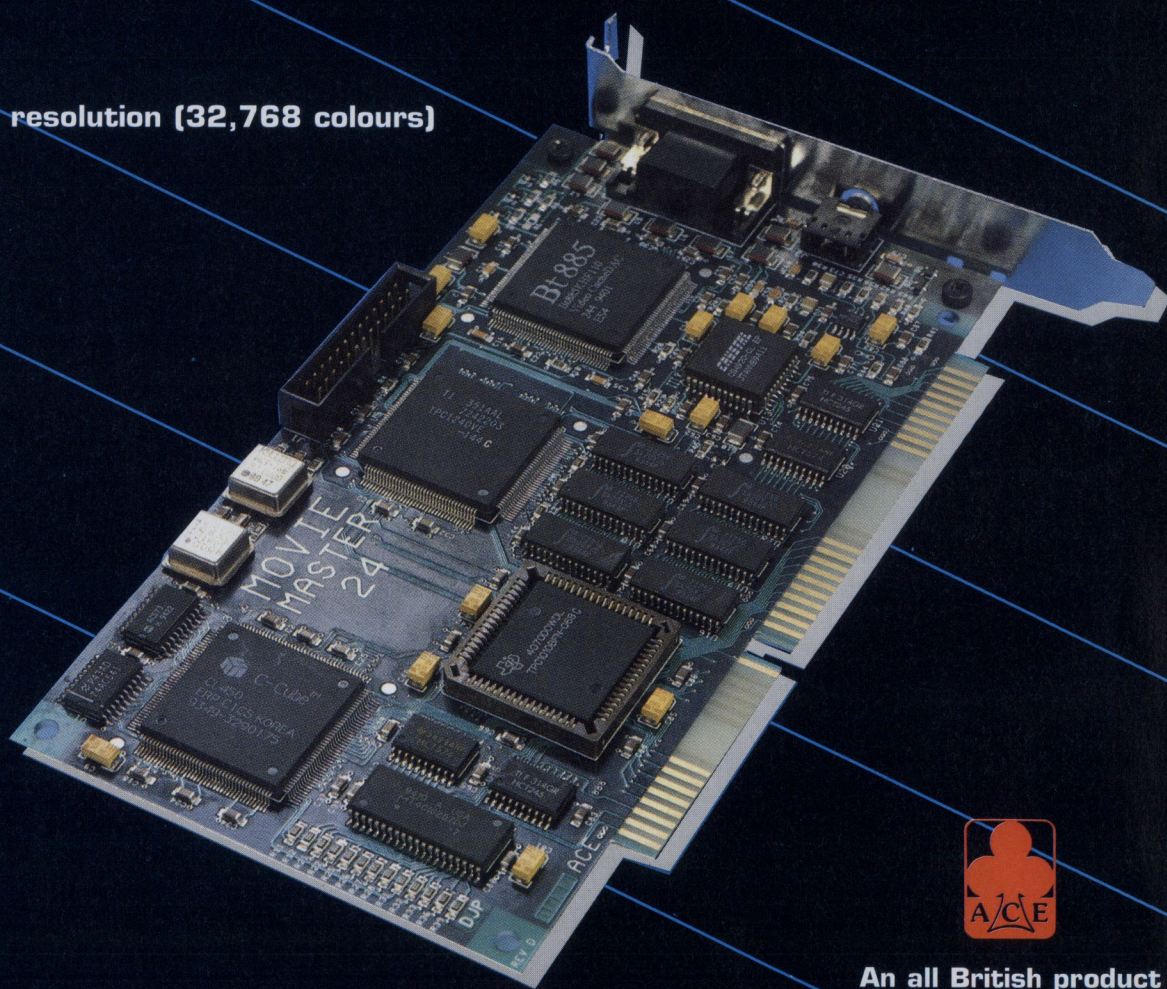
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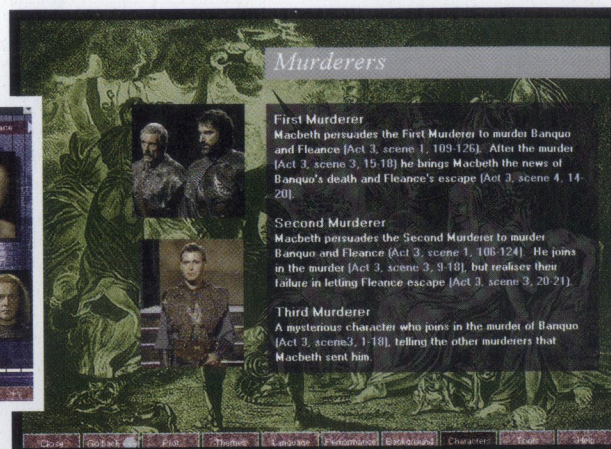
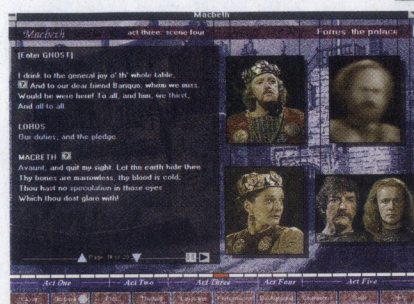
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► Hyperlinked text and photos of the characters sit on specially chosen backgrounds which emphasise Macbeth's murderous and tragic themes. As the audio version plays, the disc automatically pages through the text while presenting photos of any character on stage for the scene being read. At any time you will be able to jump to notes on the characters, themes, criticisms and history behind Macbeth.



Interactive Theatre

See also

Shakespeare is here!
on page 63 →

The traditional theatre may be one of mankind's oldest art forms, but to enjoy a play, you no longer have to go to a playhouse. In fact, as Garrick Webster discovers, all you have to do is load up a CD...

Y

ou don't need a ticket. You don't even need a printed programme. A new kind of theatre has arrived courtesy of Attica Cybernetics, BBC Education and HarperCollins. Interactive theatre is here and the first play in the genre is Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Unlike the term interactive movie, interactive theatre seems to have some substance. "With Shakespeare on CD-ROM we provide the performance at the heart of the product," says Chris Jennings, project manager at Attica. "But then what we also do is provide ways for the user, or the audience, to interrupt the performance and get more information."

Central to *Romeo and Juliet* is an audio version of the play accompanied by the full text, both of which were provided by HarperCollins. On top of that, there are videos and radio material from the BBC, plus a whole array of supplementary research on the plot, themes, and historical context of the play. To follow *Romeo and Juliet* are discs of *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and three other plays by the bard.

Currently assembling the interface, text, backgrounds, pictures and video for *Macbeth*, Chris Jennings feels as though he's producing a play – except the stage he's using is a PC. "We have to design the scenery," he says. "We have to work with the actors and make the actors do what we want



▲ It has a similar interface to *Romeo and Juliet*, but *Macbeth* is no love story.

in the performance. And I mean literally – we are using a number of performances of the play that have already been done for other media, but we bring them together to make one coherent thing."

Even so, Chris Jennings is certain Attica and its partners are making discs that surpass much of the bandwagon dross on the market, and he stresses that everything they're using in their Shakespeare series is relevant. "Here we have a play written by Shakespeare and acted out on thousands of stages for 400 years since he wrote it. What we've done is put on the disc all of the things to help you understand and enjoy the story," he says.

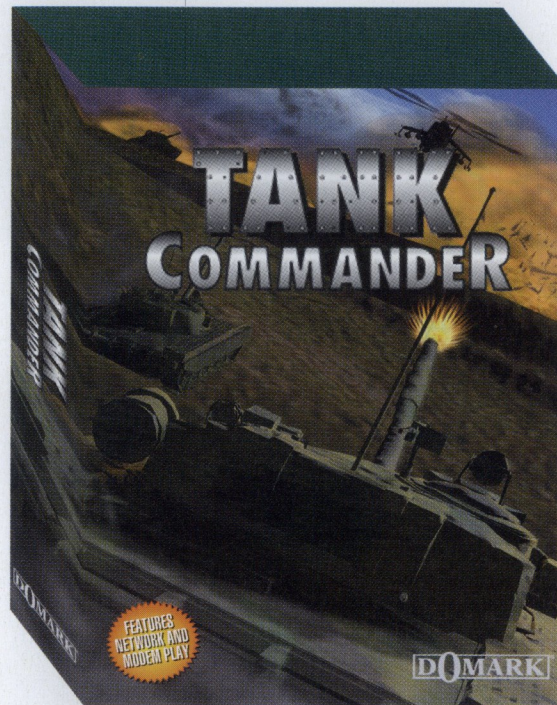
Despite the fact that *Romeo and Juliet* is on the curriculum of schools in this country, Chris claims he's designed the discs for the broadest possible appeal. In fact Attica, HarperCollins and the Beeb actually want everyone to get into interactive Shakespeare. And if the format proves a success, who knows, we could soon see Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Harold Pinter and John Osborne plays all in interactive form.

Ultimately, however, Chris Jennings' ambition goes beyond existing works. "I personally would like to go a little more avant-garde and use CD-ROM more as an original medium – possibly to commission or write a play for the medium. That would be very exciting."

End ■

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Discworld Competition

The prizes for this month's most mega-magnificent Discworld Competition are so spectacular we can hardly bear to part with them. Don't delay – enter now!

The first remarkable thing about this *Discworld* competition is that we have 20, yes 20 prizes to give away. The second remarkable thing is that our first prize is absolutely incredible. It's so incredible, we really don't know where to begin. But here goes anyway...

This month's *Discworld* winner will receive a framed, limited edition print of Josh Kirby's cover artwork for the *Discworld* game, a complete collection of *Discworld* novels plus a set of *Discworld* audio cassettes narrated by Tony Robinson (who supplies the voices of characters in the game).

But that's not all. The first prize winner will also receive a hand-painted model of the Discworld, plus figurines of Rincewind, Luggage and Death. On top of all this, the prize includes a book of Josh Kirby's *Discworld* artwork, *The Discworld Companion Book* by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Briggs, and *The Discworld Map*. Oh, and how could we forget. If you win first prize you'll also get a copy of the *Discworld* CD-ROM game.

After all that, you're probably wondering what the 19 runners up will get. Well, it's no raw deal for them either. The remaining winners will each receive the *Discworld* game by Sony Psygnosis, plus Terry Pratchett's latest *Discworld* novel entitled *Men at Work*.

If you're a Pratchett fan, don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get your hands on these Discworld goodies. Now you know what the prizes are, all that remains is for you to enter.

All you need to do is get yourself a fantastic postcard (and we do mean fantastic) and answer the following *Discworld*-

related questions correctly. You'll find answers to the first two in the magazine.

1. Name four *Discworld* novels.
2. In which year was Terry Pratchett born, and in which year did Death claim his soul?
3. Who gave Mort a job?

Mark your fantastic postcard *Discworld Compo* and cross your fingers.

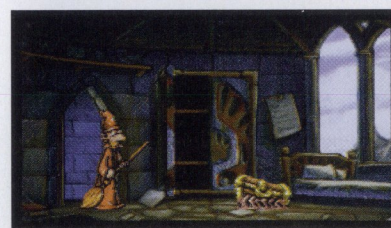
How to enter...

Send all written entries on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope (please do not enclose entries in an envelope) to:

Discworld Competition

at: CD-ROM Today
Future Publishing
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW

Closing date:
19th April 1995



Rules

1. Anyone except employees of Future Publishing, Sony Psygnosis and related companies can enter. No purchase is necessary.
2. No cash or other alternative prizes.
3. Entries must be received by last post on April 19th 1995. No responsibility will be accepted for entries damaged defaced or lost in the post.
4. Winners will be notified by post. Names of winners will be available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the competition address within 28 days of the closing date.
5. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Top Titles

Editor's
choice

▲ Luggage, Rincewind's best friend and only companion, follows him everywhere as a sort of self-contained portable inventory. Great idea.

Discworld

The game every Pratchett fan's been waiting for is here. Garrick Webster heads down the streets of Ankh-Morpork to find out if it's been longing for...

► Hellllllooooo! Anybody hoooooome? If you leave Discworld idling on your PC for too long without doing anything, Rincewind starts calling out to you and tapping the inside of the screen in this startling screen saver.



◀ This is the Discworld – a giant disc with an atmosphere, carried on the backs of a team of giant elephants who themselves are standing on the back of an even more giant turtle who swims around in an astral plane.

Just the fact that it was scripted by Terry Pratchett should be enough for most of us. Throw in the voices of Eric 'Python' Idle, Tony 'Baldric' Robinson and Jon 'Dr Who' Pertwee, and the pool of talent involved makes the game *Discworld* as humorous and fantastic as the novels on which it's based. *Discworld* is one of the most entertaining point-and-click adventure games you could hope to get your hands on – even if you're not a Pratchett fan.

With Eric Idle doing all the vocalising for Rincewind, the bumbling wizard who you control, the first treat of playing *Discworld* is hearing the characters' voices. Idle delivers all of Rincewind's sarcasm and incredulity with near perfection, and the supporting cast of Pertwee, Robinson and Kate Robbins provides a variety of tones and accents that are in key with Pratchett's sense of humour.

Just as all the voices are right for Pratchett's characters, looking at the scenery has virtually the same imaginative feel to it as

Helping Rincewind on his way

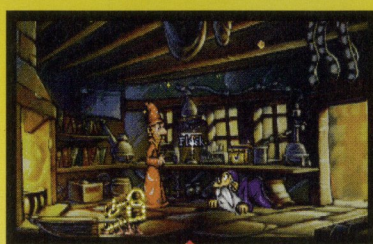
There's no getting around it, *Discworld* is a very tough game for anyone who's new to point-and-click adventure gaming. This is how to get Rincewind off on the right foot...



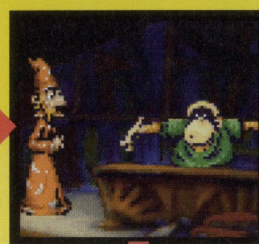
Here's the Unseen University, home of some of the greatest wizards on the Discworld – and one or two of the worst. This is where Rincewind is woken and told to visit the Archchancellor of the University.



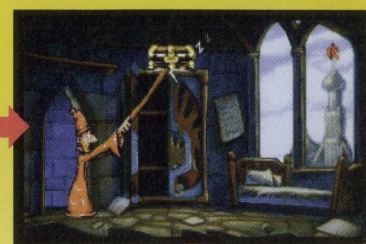
Once he's up and about, he can open the cupboard and get his purse. Since Luggage is asleep on top of the cupboard, the only thing Rincewind can do now is open the door and head downstairs to find the Archchancellor. To get there, take Rincewind onto the first ledge on the left as he descends the staircase.



The Archchancellor, when you find him, will tell Rincewind that the city is having problems with a dragon and will ask him to run down to the library and get a copy of Featherwinkle's Concise Compendium of Dragon's Lairs. So, off to meet the librarian.



There could be a library card in Luggage. But to wake him, Rincewind needs a pole so he can prod him. For this, you can use the broom in the cupboard on the ground floor.



The case contains the next best thing to a library card – a banana. Now you're on your way to getting your hands on the book. You can head back to the library and exchange the fruit for Featherwinkle's book.

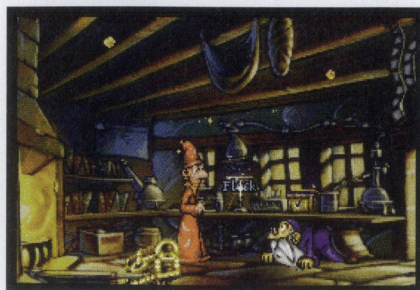
reading a descriptive passage from a *Discworld* novel like *Mort* or *Lords and Ladies*. From the cavernous halls of the Unseen University to the grotty alley ways of the city, and on to the market square, the detail and depth of the settings are a treat for the eyes.

Designed in an artistic style similar to the covers of the *Discworld* books, the rich, dense scenery sets a perfect stage for the game's animations. Rincewind shuffles around in his red robes looking about nervously while behind him his octopedal mobile suitcase, Luggage, follows like a puppy. Most of the humans, dwarves and trolls you'll meet in Ankh-Morpork are pretty placid, talking away, rolling their eyeballs or gesticulating.

Occasionally, however, you'll stroll onto a scene, innocently start a conversation, and end up triggering off one of the game's numerous set-piece animated sequences. This is particularly amusing, for instance, when Rincewind finds himself in an alley used as a training ground for

assassins. Treading on the wrong paving stone, he gets shot up into the air and ends up tumbling around on the rooftops. Later on, after he's disturbed the assassins' network of ropes and ladders that hang from roofs, a trainee assassin comes belting along. Climbing and leaping from roof to roof, he misses the crucial ladder and crashes, with all the calamitous clutter of a cartoon, onto the pavement below.

With such a large part of the game taken up by listening to dialogues, watching the animations or taking part in conversations, it's easy to forget that beneath the seemingly irrelevant series of jokes and sideshows there's an enormous game to be played.



◀ When he hears the bursting of young Rincewind's popcorn, the Alchemist fears the worst and hides as though an act of God is on the way.

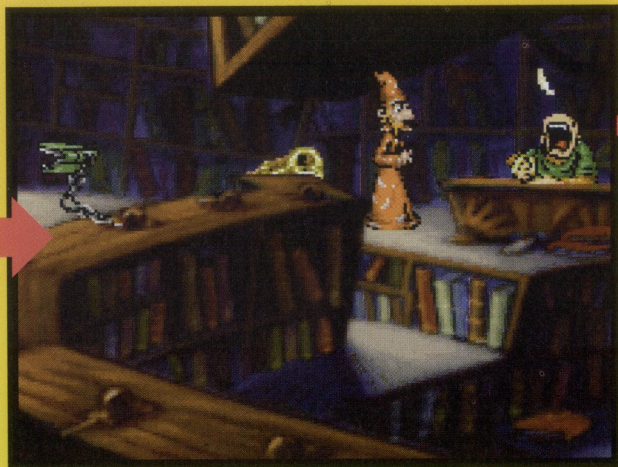
Once you get over how funny, peculiar or ironic everything on the *Discworld* is, you reach the point where you're only going to get more enjoyment out of the game when you start solving the puzzles. And that's where the plot comes in.

With complaints of a nasty dragon on the loose, Rincewind, a trainee wizard at the Unseen University, is chosen by his Archchancellor to sort things out. His first task is to help create a dragon's lair detecting device. To do this, he has to get his hands on certain objects.

But it's nowhere near as straightforward as it sounds. Although you can collect the objects in any order you like, actually getting some of them is a challenge in itself. Simply finding one item needed for the dragon's lair detector takes you into a separate little story all on its own.

The secret is to listen intently to what all the characters say. What makes *Discworld's* plot sublime is that, although you'll hear a lot of people saying what sounds like a load

Continued overleaf ▶



Having tiptoed around the sensitivities of the orangutan, Rincewind can return to the Archchancellor and hand over the book. Another spiel from the boss is on the way...



The next order Rincewind gets from the Archchancellor is to find the elements needed to create a Dragon's Lair Revealer. These are shown in the book: a staff, an imp, a metal coil, a frying pan and a sample of dragon's breath. The staff, at least, is in the dining room.



The urchin will steal Rincewind's purse, then sell it back to him. But he'll also teach Rincewind a pickpocket's skill, which comes in handy later on at the barber's where you can find a coil of metal.



You travel in Ankh-Morpork by clicking where you're heading on this map. Rincewind will take the least obvious course to that place. The first location you want to find is the square where you'll meet the lovable street urchin.



It's Windle Poons, voiced by Jon Pertwee, who holds a staff, so after talking to him, Rincewind can trick Windle into exchanging his staff for the broomstick. To get the other items, however, Rincewind needs to go into the City of Ankh-Morpork.



At the barber's Rincewind talks this lady into having her curlers taken out. The barber puts one in his pocket. While Rincewind makes the barber think of his beloved milkmaid, he can use his skills to snatch the curler – the metal coil.



Leaving the University is easy, if you know the spell for opening the gate. If you're persistent with the Apprentice Wizard, he'll teach you the spell. Learning the spell sends Rincewind into conniptions, but eventually he gets out into the city.



◀ From previous page

of rubbish, often they're giving you clues as to what you should be doing. If you listen carefully and relate what you hear to what's in your inventory, it's possible to use a little imagination and some trial and error to get past the puzzles.

Using the controls in *Discworld* is easy enough. There are no menus or on-screen buttons to confuse you. In fact, everything is no further than a double click away. Your inventory is a walking suitcase that follows you everywhere and it's very easy to use.

Talking to people, however, does have an annoying side to it. Each time you talk to someone you get the same speech, even if you've heard it before. On the other hand, if you don't catch some of the clues given the first time around, you can listen again and again and again.

Of course, if you want to get through *Discworld*, it helps if you've

read one or two of the books. *Guards! Guards!* is a particularly good one to pick up, as it has similar elements to the game. It's by no means necessary – the game's easily as much fun even if you don't know anything about Pratchett – but it does help a bit.

The only knock against *Discworld* is that even if you catch the clues, the puzzles are very difficult. It's frustrating when you get stuck and have to suffer Eric Idle's repetitive whine of: "That doesn't work." Even experienced adventure gamers will find some of the puzzles hard, mainly due to the obtuse logic that's required. Sony Psygnosis has assured us, however, that there will be a tips line for anyone to call if they get stuck.

Sometimes the difficulty of the puzzles almost adds to the mystique of the game. After several hours of tortuous gaming the tingle you



Information

Discworld is available from Sony Psygnosis (☎ 0151 709 5755). It costs £50.

hear when you finally pick up a magical object makes it all worthwhile. And the sense of accomplishment you get when the curtains fall after completing one of the four acts that make up the game will definitely send you headlong into the next part of the story. But be warned, it's not a painless journey.

Overall, *Discworld* is one of the most enjoyable and entertaining adventure games available. It's highly recommended to any Pratchett fan with a multimedia PC, but it's also great fun for anyone deeply committed to puzzle solving adventures. Although it's very tough, it's a huge game that you'll be able to enjoy alone, or with friends, for a hundred hours or more. *Discworld* is a real hoot.

Excellent



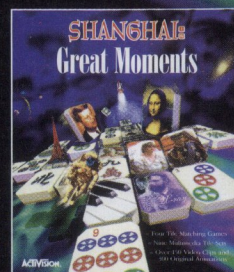
SHANGHAI: 上海

Great Moments

Multimedia Just Met Its Match.



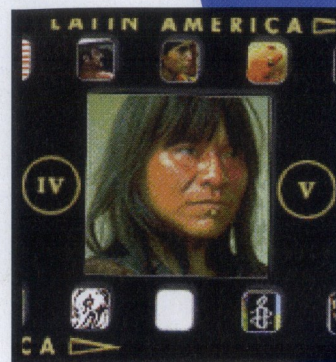
Soar into classic tile-matching excitement in this multimedia spectacular of video, audio and animation! *Shanghai: Great Moments*. Four captivating puzzle games invite you to slide tiles, fight gravity or test your strategy against time... while enticing rewards delight you into Shanghai addiction. Enter a whole new dimension of multimedia as Shanghai takes an amusing spin on some of the greatest moments in Art, Music, Science Fiction – and more! Discover unmatched Shanghai entertainment – now playing in Windows.™



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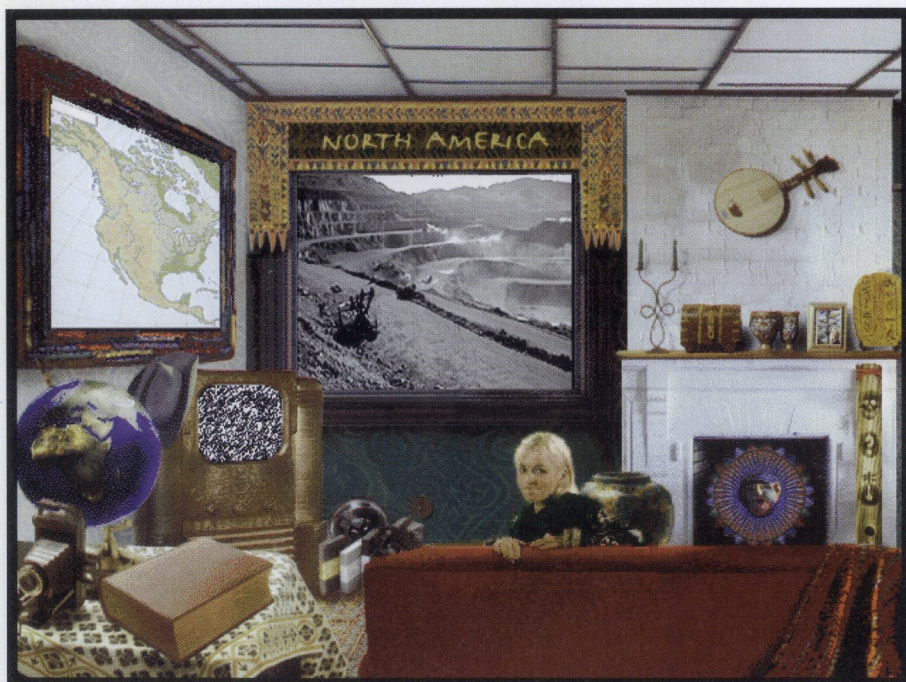
Top titles

One Tribe



◀ There's a good range of slide show presentations covering human life on every continent. Some of them (Europe, for example) are split up to make them more manageable.

Humanity, eh? A nice enough species, but you wouldn't want them living on your planet. Oh no, too late... Tim Norris tries to find out more before we get evicted.



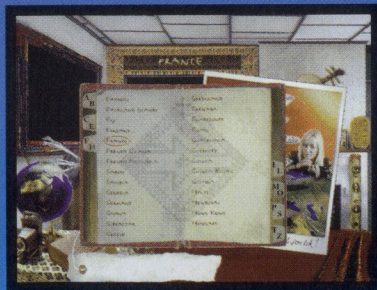
◀ At home with Pip. Click wherever you choose – just about every object in the room is an icon, although it's difficult to work out where some of them will take you.

The human race is an extraordinary thing, isn't it? Whatever your views on the astoundingly poor way we treat one another and our bizarre compulsion to drive the planet headlong towards eco-Armageddon, we deserve some credit for having the ability to wreak such havoc in the first place. Toxic waste and assault rifles might not be the best ideas that we've ever had, but when did you last see a dolphin driving a fork lift truck? They can't, can they? For all their apparent intelligence, they've never invented even the most rudimentary of machines. And although we don't always do the 'right' thing, we've done some pretty astonishing things. There's art, literature, music, theatre, dance... and MTV. We're great, we are.

This disc is a celebration of everything that's good about the human race (except MTV). It's essentially an atlas, but with a healthy dose of people thrown in. People are great, and one of

People, people, everywhere...

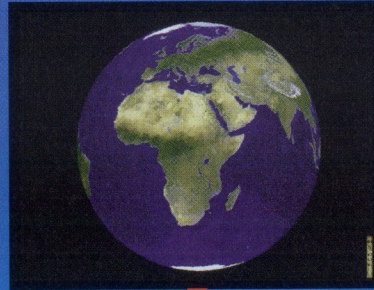
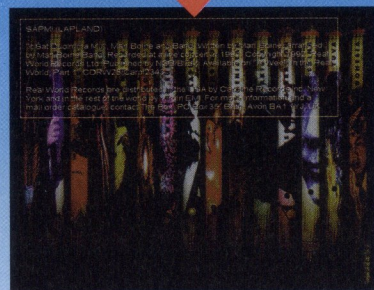
With human beings found in nearly every nook and cranny of the planet, you might need a little help finding them all. But never fear, there are loads of ways to explore the world in search of the people of your choice...



The geography book looks like the one in the One World Atlas. Simply click on the name of your chosen country and a map appears. Then zoom and move about at will.



The music selections are presented on this set of pan pipes. Selecting one will summon a small caption detailing the music, performer and the availability of the track.



The satellite images are very impressive. You start off with this huge picture of the globe. But you can zoom in and move around very quickly and easily.



Choose a theme from the exciting menu and then explore a slide show of images from around the world. I chose Play here (well, I would, wouldn't I?)



MTV's finest, Pip Dann, is going to tell you why.

Pip, in case you've never heard of her, is just about the only Video Jockey on MTV who isn't thoroughly annoying (or she used not to be, I haven't seen her on there lately), and she's an excellent choice for presenter of this celebration of humanity. She's cool, trendy, good-looking, has a great voice and fits right in with the Camden-esque vibe of the whole thing.

The set is a living room decorated in 1994 'Middle Class Trendy' style (oh yes, we absolutely adore these ethnic throw rugs – they're made by a retired pottery teacher from Saffron Walden) and you get the feeling that Peter Gabriel and a band of African musicians might walk in at any moment and ask you to get out of their flat.

Anyway, Pip sits there, on a sofa (with her back to you), watching a huge screen and occasionally turns to give you a running commentary on what's going on. Left to her own devices

she'll talk and show you slides for ages on end (I left the program running while I was out of the room and when I returned an hour later, she was still only about three-quarters of the way through her presentation). But this is one of those multimedia CD-ROM things, so you can interrupt her any time you like and slip off to do a bit of exploring of your own.

Clicking on any of the trendy ethnic items in the room will take you to another section of the disc, and the didgeridoo-like thing will bring up a control menu. The objects don't offer many clues as to where they're going to take you, but a quick call on the didgeridoo summons a helpfully annotated version of the main screen to give you a bit more of an idea.

The content of the disc (beyond Pip's continent-by-continent enthusing of all that's humanly wonderful), is essentially the same as the *One World Atlas* (see page 32). There are physical and political maps of the world showing principal towns and cities; a satellite picture of the globe

('fractally encoded' so you can zoom in without losing too much quality); a picture gallery for each country (with captions and more zooming); fascinating Boys' Own Paper facts about the highest mountains, largest cities, biggest lakes etc; a selection of themed slide shows dealing with different aspects of human culture; and music from around the world.

Given that this is a disc from Virgin Sound And Vision, who are part of the same group as Virgin Music, it's a pity they couldn't have got together with their colleagues and found some more interesting tracks to put on here. There's a small selection of 'typical' music from each of the small handful of countries and regions represented (15 in all), and when you first see the



▲ A lot of thought went into this product. This is from the intro sequence where a handful of 'people' images were mapped onto the surface of the earth. Neat.

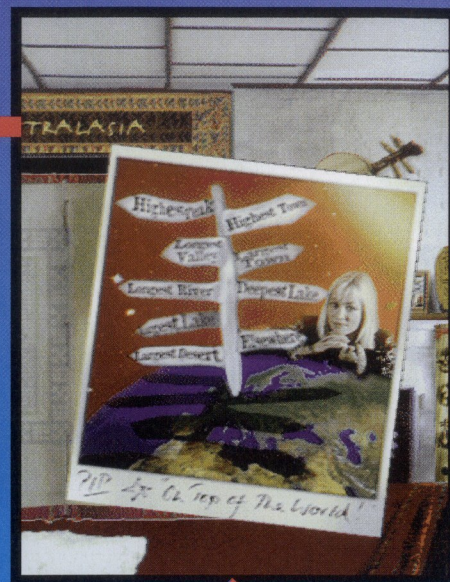
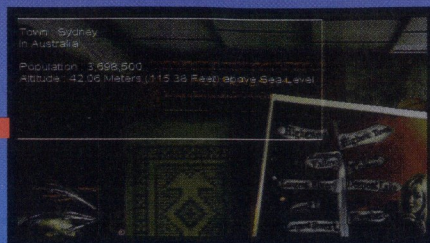
Continued overleaf ►

Tribal dance...

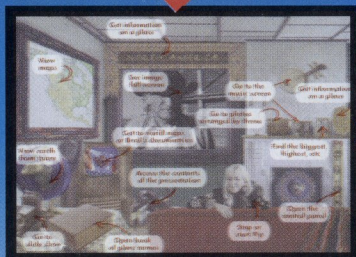
One Tribe is just packed with the peoples of the world. Take a little trot around the globe and you may find more than you bargained for...

Pip's living room is confusing, but there's a handy annotated version in the didgeridoo. You can't use the room from there, but you should be able to remember what everything does until you get back.

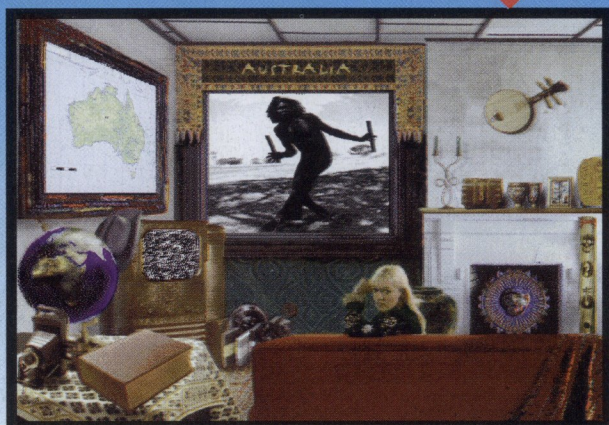
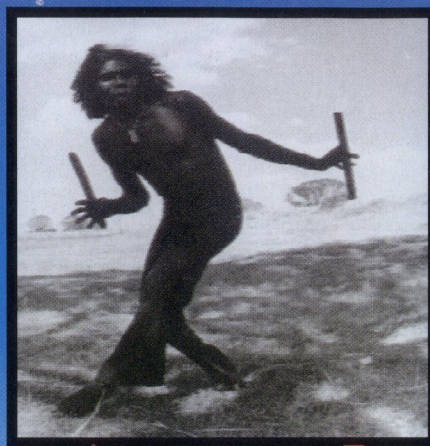
The wandering never stops. It's easy to wander around in One Tribe for hours and still not feel as if you've seen it all.



More excited clicking around the place brought me to this 'highest, biggest, longest, smelliest' bit.



Australasia seems like a nice part of the world. Let's see what Pip has to say about it. The slide show appears on the big screen, while the screen on the left usually shows a map.



If you want to see the image from the slide show full-screen, a quick click should sort you out. The quality of the images is generally high although - in keeping with the rest of the disc - the content can sometimes be a bit 'fashionable'.

Suddenly I was confused. I'd clicked on part of the living room expecting to find out more about Australasia, but got this general world wide menu instead. It's nice to be able to access it without too much fiddling, but I was surprised.



Still, in for a penny, as they say... Let's see what we can find out about volcanoes - always a favourite, probably because we haven't got any.

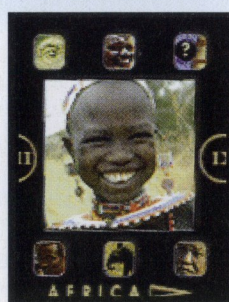
◀ From previous page

menu it all looks rather promising. But after the first intriguing offering, a war dance from the Sioux Nation of North Dakota, it slips dangerously into drivel. The USA is represented by a dreary muzak-esque rendition of *Big Bill's Boogie* performed by Eddie Jones (who the hell is he?) which, apparently, isn't commercially available (now let me try to work out why that is...).

But it gets worse. Western Europe's offering is a track by Jam Nation called *Sunstroke*. It's a dull, pseudo-ethnic, dribbly dance thing whose claim to cred is that it's on Real World Records. Well, hurrah. After the Sioux war dance I thought we were at least going to get some old English folk tunes, not a free promo for a new band. Worst of all, they'll probably be the Next Big Thing. And then who'll be eating his words?

As with its sibling, *One World*, you might find its sluggishness a tad annoying. It's partly because of the system trying to cope with the enormous amount of information that it has to move about (which is both understandable and excusable), and partly design (which isn't). Sure, it looks good, but those pretty fades from picture to menu are only appealing the first time you watch them. After that you just want to get on with it, and waiting for the damn thing to finish being pretty begins to get on your nerves ever so slightly.

Fortunately, though, the music and the speed are the only things that really let it down, and you can turn off the music if it starts to get to you. There's so much to explore, and so many different little sections, that it still feels slightly unfamiliar and remains exciting even after a couple of weeks - it's



Information

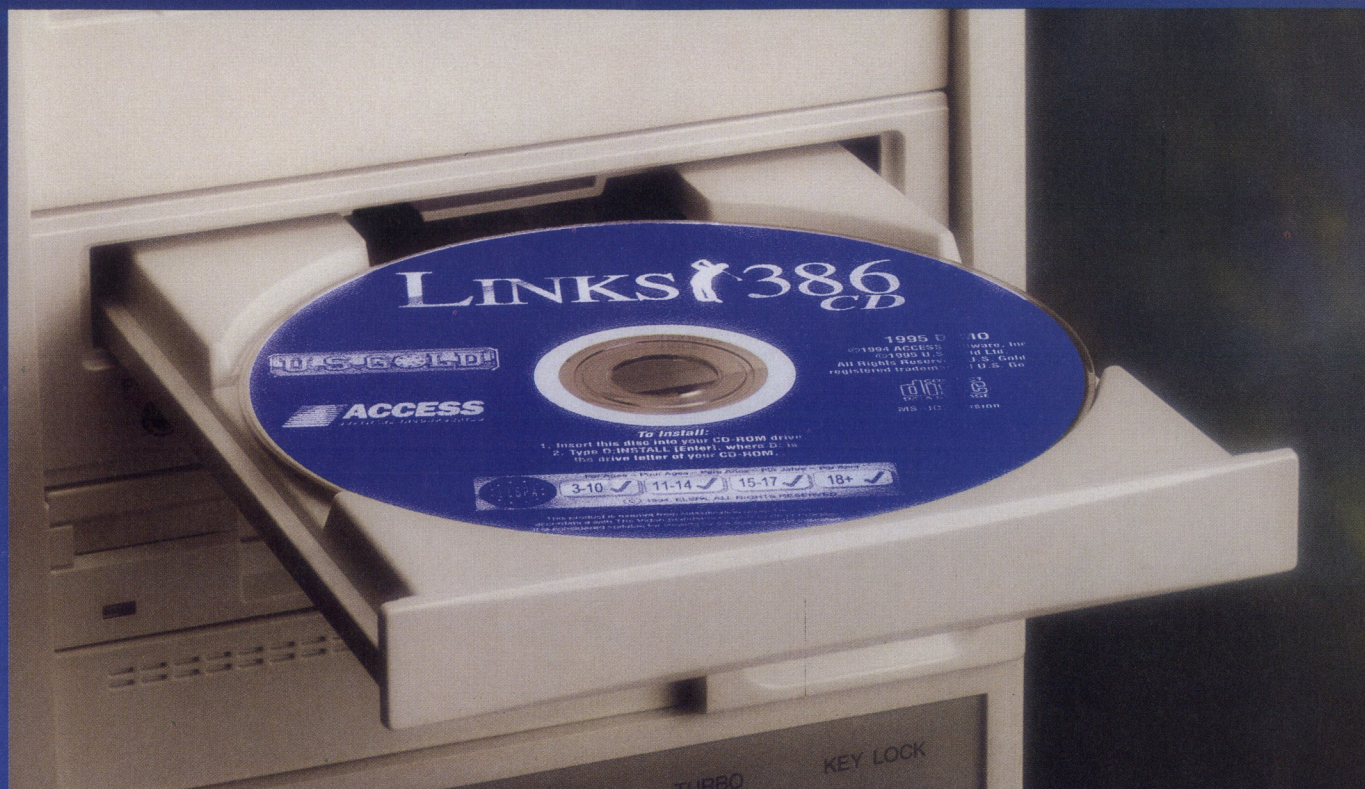
One Tribe is published by Virgin Interactive Entertainment (☎ 0181 960 2255) and costs £60.

as if you've only just got it and you're looking at it for the first time. Every time I ran it I found another way of flitting between sections, and I'd had it a week before I even knew there was a themed slide show section.

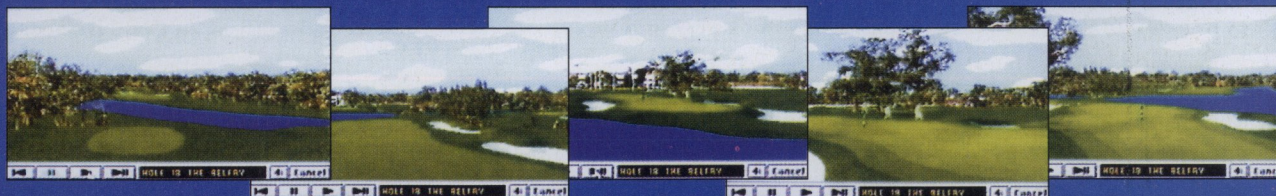
It's refreshing to see a disc that has been so well put together. This whole multimedia thing is so often misused, that I've come to expect the discs I'm given for review to provide either great information that is poorly presented, or superbly displayed inconsequential drivel. But *One Tribe* is a genuinely interesting twist on the traditional atlas that will serve you well as entertainment, reference, education, and as a handy guide to modern interior decorating.

Very good

★★★★☆



' THE PERFECT DRIVE '

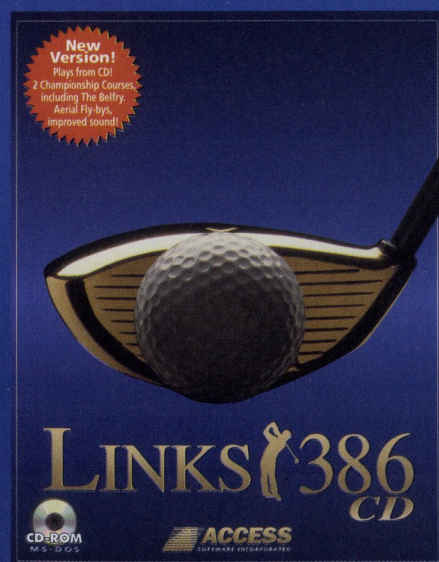


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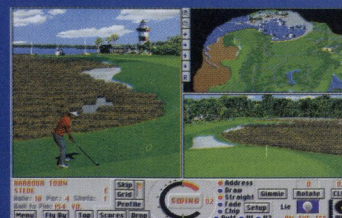
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Top titles

Best
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One World Atlas



▲ Once you see the title woven into this attractively ethnic throw rug, you know that this isn't going to be an atlas for fuddy-duddies. No indeed, it's trendy and proud of it.

For years people have been telling me "it's a small world", but I've always had a sneaky suspicion that they were wrong. How, I wondered, can it be a small world, if it takes me half an hour to walk to the nearest supermarket? No, indeed, it's a huge great big world full of people and a great amount of stuff, and the *One World Atlas* is an attempt to bring much of that 'stuff' to your PC.

It's often said of Tim Norris that he couldn't find his way to the bottom of the stairs without a map. So we gave him one.

One World Atlas is very similar to *One Tribe* (see page 28). It contains physical and political maps of the world, a database of information on the various countries, pictures, music, and satellite photos. It's easy to navigate around the assorted

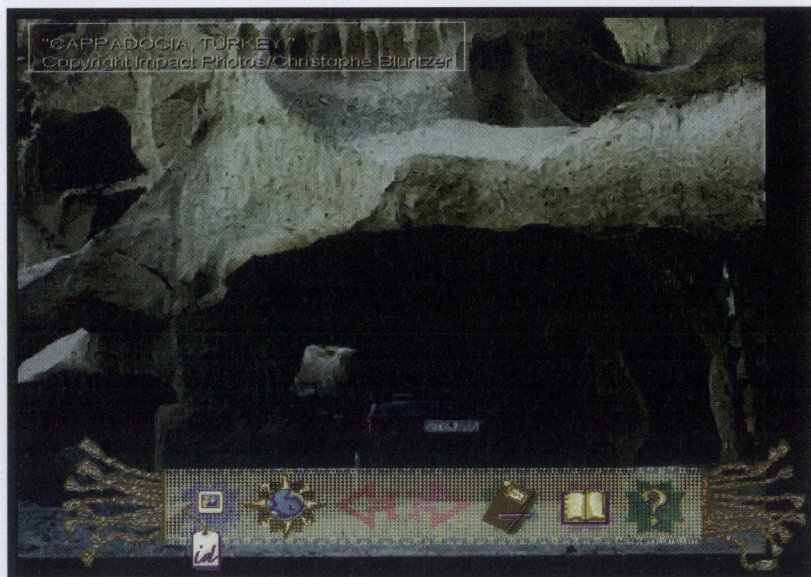
features and is quite a useful, modern resource.

There, that's the abridged version of the review, just in case you're on a tight schedule. If you have a few more minutes to sit and read further, I'll elaborate...

From the attractively designed main screen (which resembles a traveller's coffee table), you can trot off to any country in the world. Once there, you can look at maps, zoom in and out, view pictures, check out interesting facts, and become ever so slightly annoyed that everything is so slow.

Ordinarily, I'm apt to ignore sluggishness. But here the sloth seems to be a design feature. Those lovely, graceful fades between pics look gorgeous the first few times you see them. Then they start to irritate. And quitting the program can take an absolute age. By the time you've found a menu bar, returned (via slow, attractive, fades) to the main menu, quit, clicked to stop the credits scrolling endlessly by, it's tea time, and you started to quit the damn thing before lunch.

But it's a minor niggle when you consider the disc as a whole. It has the same trendy Camden-ish look about it as *One Tribe* (which



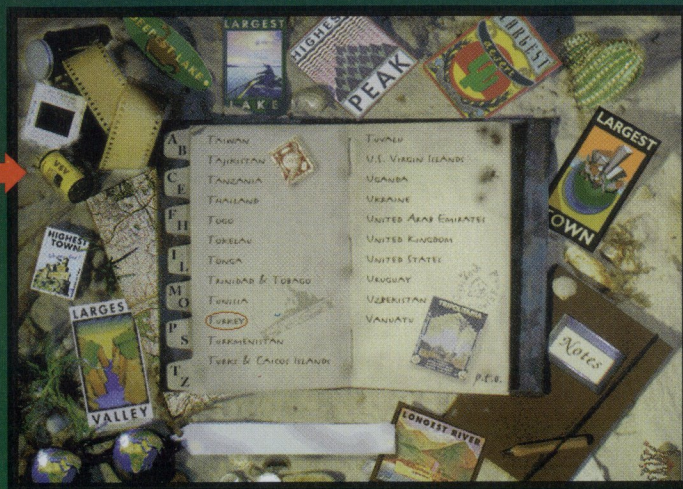
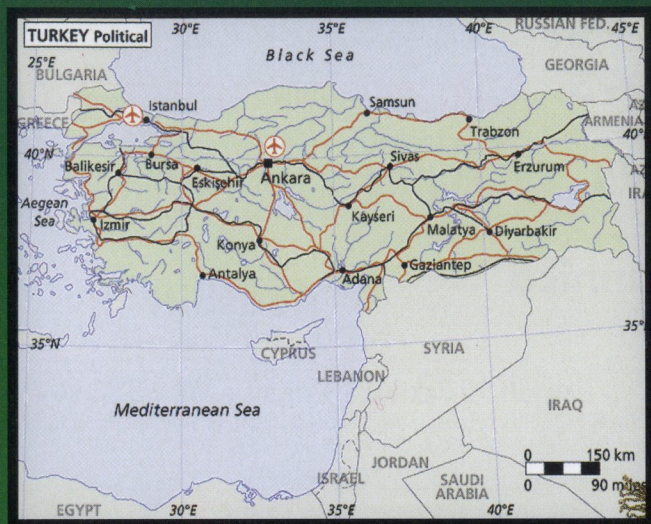
◀ Hang on a moment, there's a car in that cave. Despite the quality of the scanned images, I couldn't read his registration number so it looks like he got away with it. This time.

Information

One World Atlas is published by Virgin Interactive Entertainment (☎ 0181 960 2255) and costs £60.

Globe trotting

Fancy a gentle Sunday afternoon stroll around the world? Well, you certainly won't get lost with The One World Atlas. There's everything you could possibly want to know about everywhere. So pick the country of your choice, and away you go...



The main menu screen is presented like a traveller's coffee table, (with a 'places visited' book lying open just so you can see the huge list). Click on the tabs at the edge of the pages to turn them and then click again on the country name to select it.

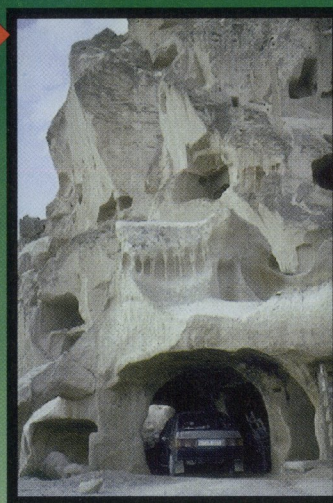
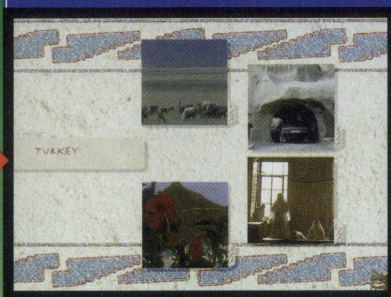
Here we see Istanbul. Once at the very centre of things and the scene of bitter conflict between the civilised, educated, Muslims and the barbarous, marauding Christian Crusaders; now just a nice place to go on holiday. Heigh ho.

Looking at this shot again, I can't remember if Istanbul is just the largest city in Turkey, or whether it's also the highest.

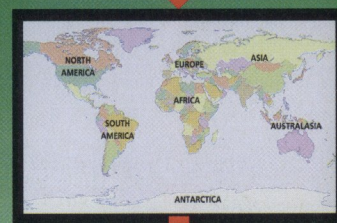


Clicking the icon in the bottom right-hand corner dims the map image and invokes this woven menu bar. It's all very lovely, but it takes an unnecessarily long time to happen.

Click the picture icon and this sub-menu appears. There's no direct access to the picture of your choice, but the collection is broken into chunks so you don't have to scroll through them all to find the one you want.



Turkey isn't all minarets and history, you know. There's also quite a bit of beautiful countryside to explore as well, and parking doesn't seem to be a problem.



might date horribly, but looks fine now). There's a good selection of music. The little snippets of information are sometimes interesting, sometimes not, but it's all the sort of stuff you'd expect to find in a standard atlas, so no disappointments there.

The satellite pics of the planet are pretty much worth the price of admission on their own. I was wondering how they got such a good 'zoom', and it says here (in the manual, which I didn't read, of course) that they're 'fractally encoded'. So now I know.

It's a great package and comes heartily recommended for anyone who doesn't think they can take the trendy approach of *One Tribe*. But there's no point buying them both – there's nothing here that isn't in *One Tribe*, so it's pretty much a choice between the people-orientated approach of *One Tribe*, and the more straightforward 'maps and facts' approach of *One World*. I'd go for *One Tribe*, but it's a close thing.

Very good



Meanwhile, back at the political map, you can zoom right out to see the whole planet at once...

...and then zoom back in to see the bits you want. But that's not the most impressive thing, no sirree...



By far the most impressive single things are the satellite photos of earth. I still can't figure out why, but I find the thought of seeing the planet from the outside quite fascinating.





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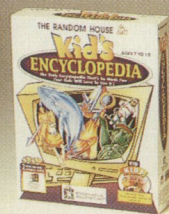


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Letters



Accusations of Yank-bashing fly, flashy multimedia is reduced to the speed of a tortoise, and software boffins still can't spell – selections from this month's mail bag...

Novice nightmares

Okay, *CD-ROM Today's* a great magazine, but not that great! I'm fairly new to the world of PCs and need all the advice I can get. So it would be nice if you could specify the

minimum requirements of each disc you review. I've bought various discs after reading your mag, only to find that I often have problems running them, especially DOS ones.

I recently bought *PGA Tour 486* through a mail-order supplier after reading your review, and a tortoise could move around the greens quicker than I can. So please, give us novices a little more help in choosing discs that will work satisfactorily with our machines – we can't all afford to go out and splash out on the latest ultra-expensive equipment.

K Leech
Hull

We take the minimum MPC spec as standard for our reviews, basically a 486SX with 4Mb of RAM and a double-speed CD-ROM drive, and make a note in the Information panel of the reviews if a higher spec is needed. Should developers cut back on the features to make software run faster? What do you think?

British arrogance

I'm tired of your American bashing! February's issue had comments including "the demo

version of *P.A.W.S* suffers from a very American voice-over" along with an apology for the "incorrect spelling" of *Art Center*. It's enough to put me off buying any more issues. I want information, not tabloid journalism. I'll save my 95 Kroner for a Budweiser.

Paul Radzinski
from the Net

We're not Yank bashers! In fact, we have close links with a magazine in the States, also called CD-ROM Today. But many of our readers are wary of educational discs that teach their children to spell incorrectly, and we made a point with P.A.W.S, because it's actually an English-produced disc, so the American voice-over was unrepresentative. Also, with reviews of discs such as the Grolier Encyclopedia, we have to point out that while it's excellent, nearly all of the

multimedia extras are geared to the American market, and will have little interest to Europeans.

Grammar gaffs

Back in the early '80s following the introduction of the BBC Micro, it seemed educational software was written either by teachers who couldn't program, or by programmers who couldn't teach.

As a newcomer to the world of multimedia, I am astounded by the advances in technology. Your coverdiscs on issue 9 gave an exciting taste of what can be achieved and made me wonder what we will be seeing in the next decade.

But I was disappointed to discover some poorly prepared material lurking behind the excellent presentation. A number of them are riddled

with spelling mistakes (not just the American spelling) and poor grammar. This is inexcusable with the availability of spelling and grammar checking software. I hope that the samples do not reflect the quality of the final products.

C Hammond
Southampton

Sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't! Attention to grammar is often less strenuous in demo development. Why not write in with your glaring howlers?

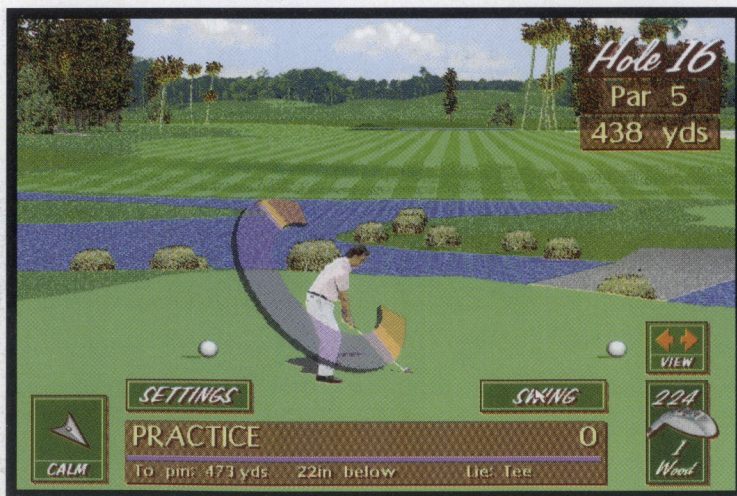
Spare a thought

I always enjoy *CD-ROM Today* but there's one thing that really irritates me about it.

When publishing supplier details, please give a thought to your overseas readers who find it both inconvenient and expensive to make contact by phone, and please include postal addresses.

Ray van Rensburg
Holland

The best thing to do is to contact local software suppliers in your own country. That way you'll be sure of getting the correct versions of discs, and technical support if things go wrong.



▲ You want the best in multimedia, without having to keep on spending fortunes on up-to-the-minute hardware. Some CD titles are very frugal – others, like *PGA Tour 486*, have truly exotic requirements (see Novice nightmares).

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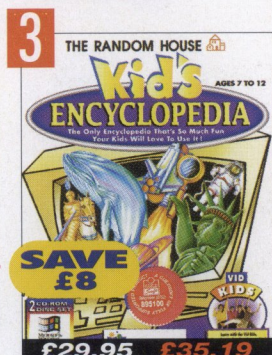
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The power to travel through time and space. View the planets and their moons and discover 300,000 distant stars and galaxies. View the world's finest astrophotography captured for full screen display. A superb desktop interface allows you to browse the heavens.



Creative Writer
A complete writing programme that gives kids the tools and ideas to explore their creativity and make great-looking projects. More than 8,000 story starters will jump-start the imagination. Also includes custom fonts and dozens of illustrations.



The Random House Kids Encyclopaedia
The only encyclopaedia that is designed solely for kids. Set in a 3D Theme Park, it brings facts to life with over 2000 entries, 3000 animations, 150 movies and 6 Virtual Reality learning games that weave facts and fun together into the only encyclopaedia kids will love to use.



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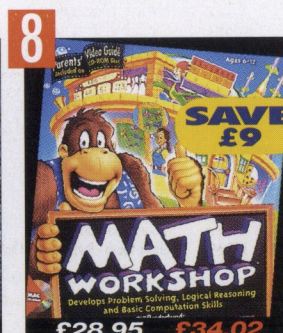
Star Trek: Next Generation Interactive Technical Manual
Investigate the 24th Century's crowning technological achievement, the Starship Enterprise NCC-1701-D. Travel the corridors, command the bridge, handle the controls and explore every facet of the holodeck and engineering. You'll go where only crew members have gone before. Welcome aboard.



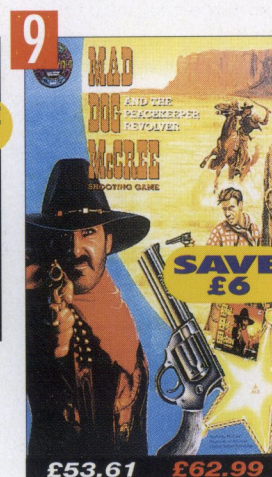
Midnight Stranger
You've just arrived in a bustling city, a strange place full of unpredictable people. Move through the cityscape and visit landmarks, nightclubs, cafes, restaurants or even the theatre. Meet the unusual, attractive and repellent individuals to be found there. Subtle links are uncovered as you interact with the characters and become part of the plot. Your world just became stranger.



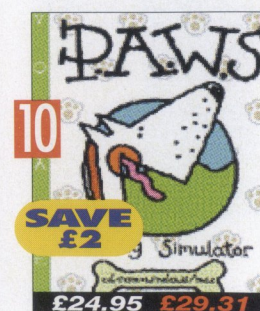
Rebel Assault
Combat the Empire in a series of intense, deep-space battles. Control any one of four Star Wars vehicles in a series of challenging piloting, targeting and combat scenarios in the first Lucas Arts game made exclusively for CD-ROM.



Maths Workshop
Develops problem solving, logical reasoning and basic computer skills. Gives kids an opportunity to learn and improve critical maths skills in an engaging environment filled with games, music, animated characters and more. Each activity includes multiple levels of difficulty designed to reinforce kids confidence and motivation. Skills learned include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, equivalencies, estimation, fractions, pattern recognition, spatial orientation, shape recognition, scale and symmetry.



Mad Dog McCree (Includes gun.)
You get to play the good guy in this interactive Western. Wandering into a paranoid frontier town, you obviously have great prowess as good folks beg you for help and gangs of psychopaths attempt to blast you to smithereens.



P.A.W.S.
This captivating animated programme gives an inspired twist to the phrase 'It's a dog's life'. Operating from 'inside' a simulated cartoon canine, dog lovers of any age can navigate around the backyard and experience life from a dog's point of view. Bury bones. Dig up bones. Growl. Bark etc.

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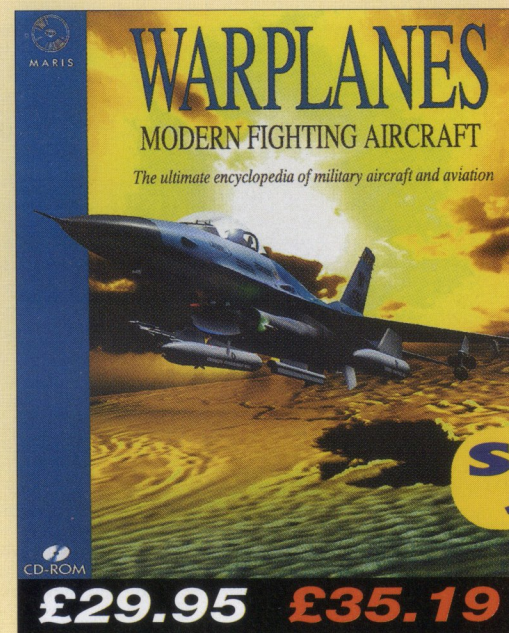
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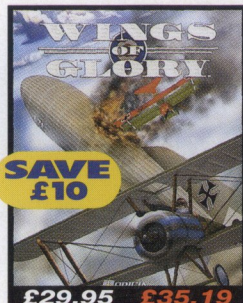
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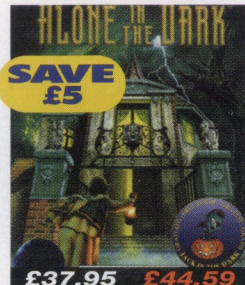
One World
A stunning trek around the Earth, from Akron, Ohio to the Tasman Sea and beyond. Choose a destination and embark on a picturesque, factual tour exploring our planet. A unique atlas that practically dances off the screen, One World presents a wealth of maps and information, all set to a culturally rich music track.



One Tribe
A glimpse into the future of interactive programming. International MTV star Pip Dann takes you on a journey exploring the people and cultures of our world, from the origin of the Maori islanders to the rituals of Tibetan monks. Using photography from the world's best libraries, BBC video footage and music from Peter Gabriel's Real World labels, One Tribe takes you further than you can imagine - right from your own home.



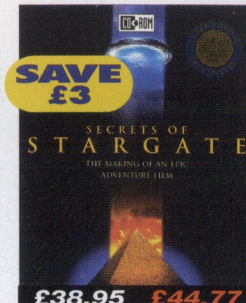
Wings of Glory
It's not only Angels that have wings. When your duelling at dawn and the enemy's close enough to smell, it takes an unshakable nerve to bring your canvas crate back home. With no radar to guide you, radio communication or missiles, one slip and you'll be trading your flying helmet for a halo. But then no guts, no wings of glory.



Alone In The Dark 3
A western adventure with a sinister plot. Use your physical and investigative skills as well as your instinct to uncover the dark secret. Difficulty level for fighting sequences. How will you react when you become a puma by the forces of Navajo magic? 270 backgrounds and 60 different characters. Endless number of back-ups and 10 saved games included.



Xplora
Peter Gabriel's interactive journey into his music and interest in human rights. It includes the video STEAM and comes with the book written by Peter, together with a series of articles from THE BOX, his multimedia magazine.



Stargate
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REVIEWS

Flight

Flight Unlimited

Daring to Fly

Aviation Adventure

Air Havoc Controller

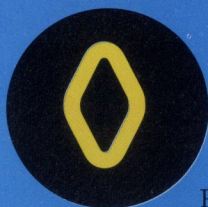


● Illustration by Paul Kidby

Flight discs on CD-ROM

Airborne!

When it comes to flying planes, plunging into the history of aviation or simply playing games, Tim Norris discovers the sky's the limit...



One of humankind's longest held dreams was to fly like a bird. Everyone from the ancient Greeks, to mad Frenchmen has talked about it, written about it, drawn pictures of it and tried, with varying degrees of success, to actually do it. It wasn't until 1903 that Orville and Wilbur Wright did their famous flying thing at Kittyhawk, but now, just over 90 years later, there's a plane landing at Heathrow every 75 seconds or so, and you can fly to Australia for less than the price of a decent sofa.

It's quite an achievement (although it's difficult for people living near Heathrow – or trying to buy sofas – to feel good about it), and this month we've decided to celebrate by rounding up a few choice aviation-related discs.

We start off with a real barnstormer of a flight sim from Virgin. *Flight Unlimited* will leave some gasping for breath and leave others asking where the guns are. It's a flight sim that does just that – simulates flight. No bombs. No guns. No missions to save the world from despotic foreign people. Just flying and admiring the scenery. Blissful. Or is it? You'll have to read the review to find out.

To supplement the practical flight training offered by *Flight Unlimited*, we thought we should learn more about the history and theory of aviation, so there's a

couple of reference discs too. *Daring To Fly* and *Aviation Adventure*. Both set out to teach you everything about flight, from how and why, to who and where, with a little bit of what and when thrown in for good measure. But are they any good? You'll have to read the reviews to find out.

But it's not all work, work, work. Sooner or later even the most avid aviator will tire of all this learning and will yearn for the chance to sit back and play, so we found a game that fits in with the theme – an air traffic control sim called *Air Havoc Controller*. But will it entertain you in your moments of leisure? You'll have to read the... oh, never mind.

By the time you've seen all that lot, you should have had your fill of flight-related carryings on for months to come. But if your appetite for things aerospace hasn't been sated, there's the briefest of looks at a few other discs that might fill the gap.

So, whether you fancy yourself as a pilot, an air traffic controller or a contestant on Mastermind (you have two minutes to answer questions on "Making Paper Planes" starting from... now), there should be something to meet your needs. As for me, I have to practice my two-point roll, direct a 747 to land at Phoenix and build a paper glider. Must fly.



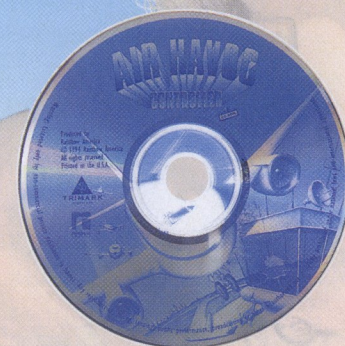
▲ *Flight Unlimited* lets you experience the excitement of flying your own plane without leaving the ground. It costs £50.



▲ *Daring to Fly* contains the history of flight from Icarus to the Red Baron – not just aeroplanes. It costs £40.



▲ *Aviation Adventure*, aimed at children, covers everything you could want to know about planes. It costs £45.



▲ *Air Havoc Controller* gives you the opportunity to be an airport 'god'. It costs £35.

Continued overleaf ►

REVIEWS

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Flight Unlimited

Daring to Fly

Aviation Adventure

Air Havoc Controller

Start ↓

Stroll into the control tower on the airfield and take a look around. Watch the planes, read the notice board, or make your way to model planes on the exhibition table.

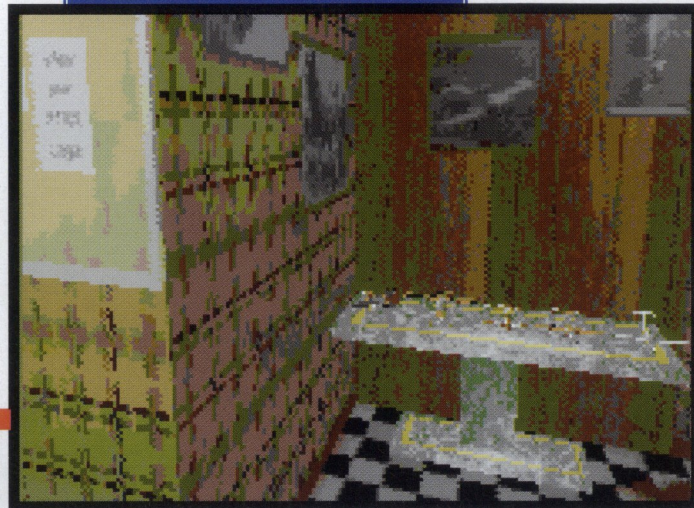
Flight Unlimited

The detail on the ground is alarmingly clear as it hurtles towards you. Full opposite rudder hasn't coaxed your plane out of its tailspin yet, and you're now going so fast the wings are about to rip off. How can the instructor remain so calm? Still, it's less expensive than crashing a real plane...



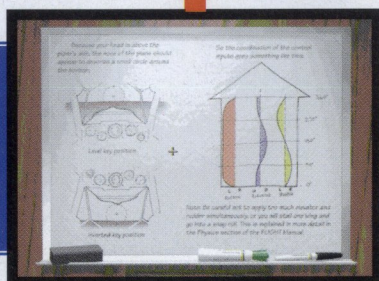
The amazingly detailed, true-to-life landscapes are based on aerial photography. They make the ideal stage for you to display all your new found flying skills.

As you close in on any one of the models on the table, it starts to rotate, showing itself off in all of its meticulous detail. Now, which one shall we take for a couple of circuits?



That yellow and black one takes my fancy. A quick click and we're airborne, flying over gloriously detailed hills and valleys. Here's the view from the cockpit, but there are plenty of others to choose from.

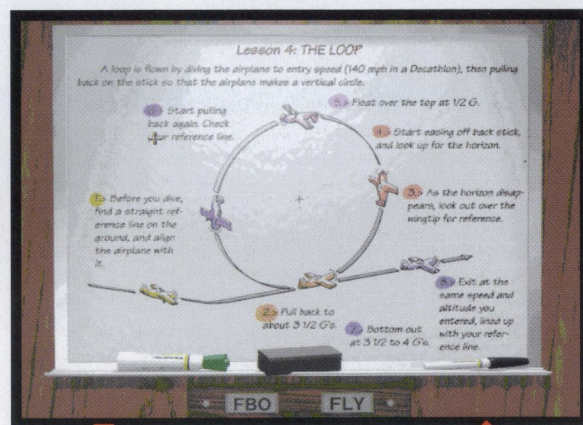
Back to the white-board afterwards for a little debriefing and some rather nicely presented lessons on the theory side of getting into the air and staying there.



Back at the control panel, there are all sorts of options to choose from, and you have power over just about everything. If only it were as simple to change the weather in real life!



The remarkably calm instructor talks you through, and his 'artificial intelligence' helps him to react to your progress.



Time to get back up there again, and this time we'll choose a lesson in aerobatics. The loop manoeuvres look good for a few white knuckles - let's give it a go.





▲ Ignore the artificially intelligent flying instructor's advice and you can almost feel your bones shattering as you nose-dive into photo-realistic landscapes!

◀ From previous page

Flight Unlimited

The first reaction of nearly everyone who sees *Flight Unlimited* is, "But where are the guns?" The second reaction is, "Blimey, that looks good." The third is, "Can I have a go?" After that there tends to be no further coherent reactions other than, "Go away, I haven't finished yet."

It's a flight sim which shies away from the conventions of the usual air combat sims (which developers, *Looking Glass Technologies*, say aren't really flight sims at all because the aircraft aren't bound by the restrictions of real world aerodynamics) and concentrates on the actual art of flying. You have a choice of five virtual aeroplanes, each of which behaves as much like its real world counterpart as the computer can manage – that's if you have the recommended Pentium to run it. A 486DX/33 is

suggested as an absolute minimum, but a 486DX2/66 is more realistic.

So, you arrive at the local flying club (they're dotted around the USA to give you a variety of terrains over which to fly) and have a wander around the building. If you don't fancy just taking one of the planes out and tootling around without any instruction, there's an advert for flying lessons on the notice board – sounds like a damn fine idea. Click on the notice and you get a choice of manoeuvres to try. Click on the stunt of your choice and you see the manoeuvre described on a whiteboard. When you think you know what you're supposed to do, off you go.

Once you're in the air, any doubts you might have had about the wisdom of releasing a game where nothing very much happens burn off like an early morning mist on the airfield. This is flying. No, I mean really, this *is* flying.

The virtual ground looks like real ground. It looks like that

"...only the fact that you can still hear the bloke next door trying to start his car reminds you that you're still on the ground."

because it's been digitised from actual photographs of actual ground taken from actual planes flying over Maine, Vermont, Arizona and all those other places.

The virtual planes behave as you imagine a real plane might behave. This is because their



performance has been fine-tuned by real pilots. They loop, they stall, they jiggle about in thermal air currents, they crash into the sides of mountains – only the fact that you can still hear the bloke next door trying to start his car reminds you that you're still on the ground.

Meanwhile, back at the flying lesson. There's an instructor to help you out and give you advice (with an artificial intelligence routine that offers advice appropriate to your performance in the lesson). Do as he says and all will be well. Fail to do as he says and all remains well, he just invites you to have another go.

When you've had your fill of two-point rolls, loops and Immelman turns, why not go back to the club house, pick up another plane and take it for a spin? Or maybe you'd prefer a little competition? There's the Hoop Course, if you do, where you fly around a course marked by hoops.

And there's not much more to it than that. Although there's nothing much to do apart from a few lessons and a competition course or two, I can imagine myself coming back time after time, just to fly about without having to go to all the expense of hiring a plane and taking flying lessons. The trouble is, I've still got to go to all the expense of buying a Pentium to run it on. And that, in the short term, might prove to be the game's undoing.

Heartily recommended to Pentium owners. You might try it with a 486DX2/66. Otherwise you'll probably be disappointed.

Excellent



Continued overleaf ▶

Editor's choice

Looking Glass Technologies – A Boston-based games developer whose previous works include *Ultima Underworld 1 and 2*, *System Shock* and *Car and Driver*. *Flight Unlimited*, however, is something of a labour of love for the LGT team.

Information

Flight Unlimited is published by Virgin Interactive (☎ 0181 960 2255) and costs £50.

Politics, Sex and Religion

Title	Supplier	Phone No ☎	Price	Rating
Flight Unlimited	Virgin Interactive	0181 960 2255	£50	★★★★★☆☆
Daring to Fly	Maxis	0171 490 2333	£40	★★★★☆☆☆
Aviation Adventure	Guildsoft	01752 895100	£45	★★★★☆☆☆
Air Havoc Controller	Domark	0181 780 2222	£35	★★★★☆☆☆

REVIEWS

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Start ↓

From the main menu (and it's always easy to get back to the main menu, wherever you are), the sections are divided neatly into themes. Dreaming of Flight seems like a logical place to start a little tour...

Daring to Fly

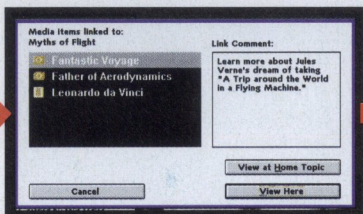
From ancient Greece and ancient China came dreams of flight. Tim Norris wanted to know exactly what sort of dreams they had, so we sent him off to find out.



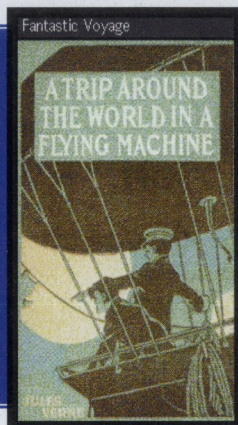
It's looking good. There's some good text about early flight legends and pictures of ancient paintings. The icons down the right-hand side of the screen (mostly cameras, here) will open up related material...



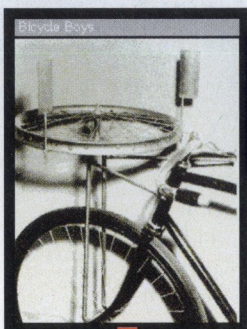
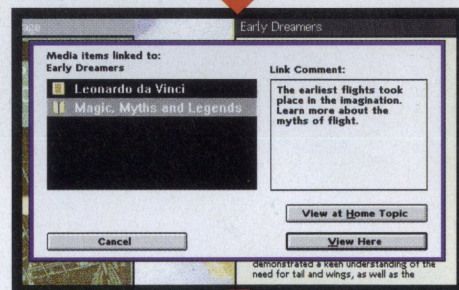
...or you can click on the Links button on one of the articles and take yourself off to another section of the disc entirely, like this link to other flying fiction...



...Jules Verne's Trip Around the World in a Flying Machine. But that's not really the sort of thing we're after, so how about another link.

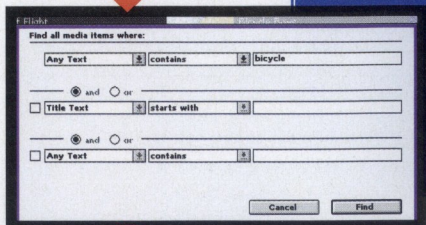


This is more like it. Click on the Magic, Myths and Legends line and we should get a bit closer to the sort of thing I was looking for in the first place.

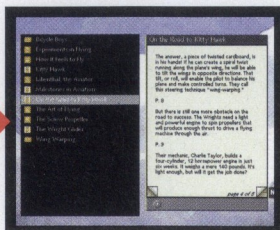


Now that I've found what I wanted, here's that mysterious bicycle thing (see text opposite). This is the original picture, as it appears on the Kittyhawk page. But what does it mean?

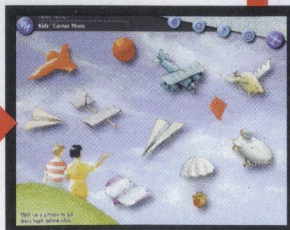
Well, let's call up the search menu and try to find out. It seems to me that simply finding references to 'bicycle' might do the trick - there's no need for any of the Boolean tricks.



The list of matches is on the left, and extensive reading through them reveals this as being the closest to an answer I could find. But it doesn't really explain that strange bicycle picture, does it?

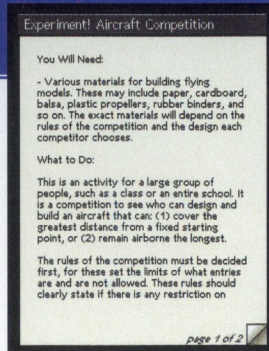


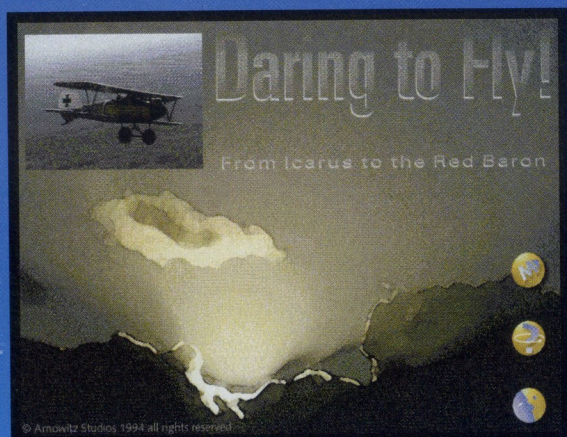
That was a waste of time. Let's head for the Kids' Corner and have some fun. The menu's entertaining, but the captions are as unhelpful as on the main menu.



And sure enough, we do. The legends of flight in 15 pages of text and illustrations, with commentary. Hurrah.

There's quite a bit for kids to do, including this rather ambitious plane-building competition. Employees of British Aerospace and their families are not allowed to enter. Please don't bring full-size models of the Airbus to school.





▲ If you're fed up of piloting screaming death planes on missions of mayhem, perhaps you'd rather take a look at how all this flying malarky started.

◀ From previous page

Daring to Fly

At first glance, it seems as if this disc covers a lot of ground. It's the history of flight 'from Icarus to the *Red Baron*' so it goes from ancient Greece, to the 20th century skies above France – and that's an awful lot of history. But when you remember that much of the history of aviation up to 1903 merely consisted of a few loonies with papier maché wings strapped to their backs, and a handful of drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, it becomes a much more manageable project.

So, what do we get for our entry fee? Well, we get a nice looking main menu, for a start. With help bubbles. Moving the pointer over the various bits and pieces brings up a title, and clicking on many of them brings

up a set of sub-options. And this is where the trouble starts.

A great many of the titles and sub-titles of the sections have been written, how shall I put it, 'cleverly'. Rather than the bland, matter-of-fact titles we're used to (Pioneering Women Aviators), we get snappy puns and general cleverness (Creating Turbulence). This is all very imaginative and laudable, but it doesn't actually help you find your way about easily. And one more pun on the Wright brothers' name might inspire me to violence.

Still, these things are for exploring, so let's explore. I decided that the Wright brothers' first flight at Kittyhawk might be a good place to start, so off I went. The screen appears, together with a couple of pictures and a menu of further pictures and articles. A narrator introduces the section.

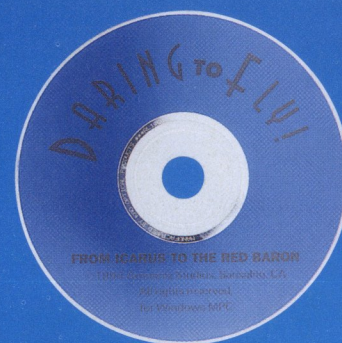
And here's one of those picture titles that will definitely catch your eye: Bicycle Boys (you can see the picture on the opposite

"as in the case of that damned bicycle, I'm not convinced that some of the things I wanted to know are there at all."

page). Yes, it is a fascinating image, but it doesn't have a caption. None of my searches using the powerful search tool turned up any clues. I've had the disc for four weeks now and I still

don't have any idea what the picture's about. I've seen the same image in different sections, with different titles, but there's still no sign of an explanation.

It's a shame that something like that has been allowed to spoil the disc, because the information that you can find is extremely well written, informative and generally packed with top notch stuff. But as with *Aviation Adventure* (p 44) it's all very difficult to find.



The search tool will make a three stage Boolean search ('this and that and the third thing must be true') and will look for text, titles, keywords and so on, but it's no good if the information has been hidden. And with all those 'clever' titles, I was disinclined to look at many of the search results because I had no idea what the articles were about.

In the end, it was the inaccessibility of the information that turned me off *Daring To Fly*. The text is good, the library of pictures and video clips is extensive and extremely well chosen, and the presentation can't be faulted. But after the initial buzz of exploring a new disc wore off and I began to try to use it to find out specific things, the muddiness started to get to me. I couldn't get at the information I wanted because I didn't know what it was called. And, as in the case of that damned bicycle, I'm not convinced that some of the things I wanted to know are there at all.

It's a good disc, let down by its eccentric organisation.

Pretty good ★★★★★

Continued overleaf ▶

Red Baron – Baron Manfred Freiherr von Richthofen (1882-1918) – German airman born in Schweidnitz, Prussia. He began his military career in the cavalry, but later joined the German air force. During World War I, as commander of the 11th Jasta Squadron ('Richthofen's Flying Circus'), he shot down 80 planes before being shot down behind British lines by Captain Roy Brown on 21 April 1918. His nickname came from his disdain for the cowardice of camouflage which led him to have his Fokker tri-plane painted bright red.

▶ "Look, Madelaine!" exclaimed Philippe. "Those Montgolfier brothers are up to their old tricks again. Hand me my blunderbuss – I'll show them."

Information

Daring to Fly is published by Arnowitz Studios and can be obtained from Maxis (☎ 0171 490 2333). It costs £40.

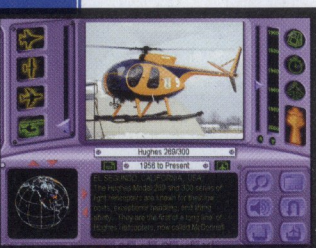


Aviation Adventure

Everything you and your children ever wanted to know about aviation, eh? Tim Norris, ever the seeker for knowledge, truth and wisdom, sets off to see what he can see from eight miles high...

There's plenty to look at here, but it's difficult to find your way about. You can slide through a timeline-type thing and look at aircraft from around that period, but it's not easy to do. This is a Hughes helicopter that I found by accident.

This is the demo of a glider sim where you have to fly a paper plane around a house using rising air currents for lift, and avoiding obstacles as you go.



Meanwhile, back at the main menu, how about a visit to the aircraft encyclopedia?

Information surfing is as simple as can be. Without really trying, I found myself wandering about all over the place and soon came across this article on propeller design.



Back in the main program you can explore detailed diagrams of history's most famous planes in the Aviation Lab. We could look at the Mustang...



... but let's go to the Paper Plane Factory instead, where there are detailed instructions for the construction of 12 paper gliders. This one might have worked quite well if I'd taken a bit more care over it.



Start



Everything starts in the control tower. The help bubbles are very, er, helpful. And they can't be that much trouble to implement. Why doesn't everyone use them? Anyway, let's go off to the aviation library...

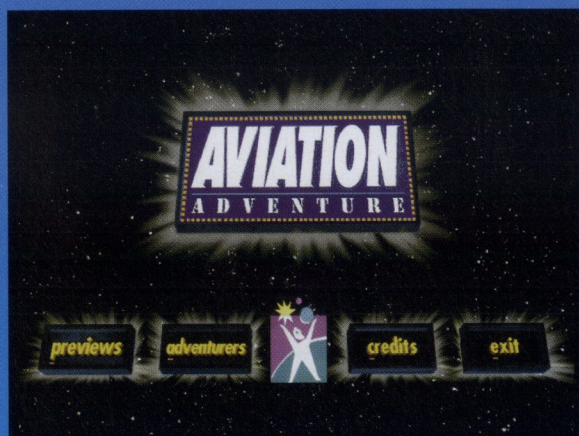
Click here to go to the Aircraft Encyclopedia.



... and learn about G-forces. Naturally, when you talk about acceleration and G-forces you have to have a picture of a pilot with his face all bent out of shape. Or does he look like that anyway?



A flight encyclopedia simply wouldn't be complete without the thorough lowdown on the Wright brothers and their historic first powered flight at Kittyhawk, North Carolina.



▲ It's a Knowledge Adventure for ages eight to adult. It will 'amaze and delight both you and your children' or they'll give you your money back.

◀ From previous page

Aviation Adventure

After the 'heavies' on the previous pages, here's something aimed at slightly younger seekers after flight-related lore.

It starts well. The main menu is busy and interesting and there are help bubbles for every icon. It doesn't sound like much, but it's this much effort to implement [holds finger and thumb a very short distance apart] and this much help [holds open hands as far apart as possible]. A quick tour around the screen with the mouse tells you everything you need to know about the disc's main features and you're off...

The first problem you meet is that there are so many places to go. It's fine if you're just browsing and generally enjoying your Knowledge Adventure (ghastly name, guys),

but if you want something specific, where do you start? The Aviation Reference Library and Aircraft Encyclopedia look like they might be helpful, but the Aviation Lab could be, too. Obviously the Paper Plane Factory, the Glider Game, the Aviation Adventure Trivia Quiz and the Flight Sim aren't going to be handy sources of accessible trivia, but the Aviation Museum might. There's a search tool and a lot of cross-referencing, but with the information divided into so many manageable chunks, it becomes, well, slightly unmanageable. I decided to cruise around to see what I could see.

There's loads. Just about everything you ever wanted to know about planes and how they fly is tucked away in here somewhere, the only problem is finding it. Once you have, it's easy to read (it's aimed at eight-year-olds and over, remember) and satisfyingly comprehensive.

One thing that non-Americans will notice very quickly, is that it's

"Just about everything you ever wanted to know about planes and how they fly is tucked away in here somewhere..."

all written from an American point of view. Of course, Orville and Wilbur were from the US, but you'd think, after looking at this disc, that no one else in the world made any real contribution to the

history of aviation. Sure, some non-Americans warrant mentions, but only as far as their products or achievements relate to America. The Hawker *Harrier*, for instance, gets a mention in the main text as the only successful vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, but more is made of the fact that the US Marines use it than what a colossal achievement it was in the first place. It gets better treatment in the Aviation Lab, although American involvement in developing new models is stressed. Still, cultural bias creeps in everywhere, and it's not as if we can't read around it.

Naturally, it's not all facts and work, there's some fun, too. There's a dodgy glider game (not huge fun); a flight sim (not bad, but not particularly state-of-the-art); a trivia quiz (extremely tough – for me anyway); and a section on making paper planes. If you print out the plans and fold them



according to the instructions, you'll end up as the world's best paper aeronaut (you can make them without printing them first, you just have to concentrate harder on the instructions).

Overall, it's a fine disc – well designed, well executed and quite enjoyable to use. The information is a bit scattered and sometimes hard to track down, and the games are a bit duff, but other than that it's not bad. It's certainly easier to use than *Daring To Fly*, and if you don't mind its American slant, or that it's aimed at the under-12s, it's probably a slightly better buy, too.

Good



Continued overleaf ▶

Harrier – The Hawker Siddeley Harrier first flew in 1966. It was the first truly successful vertical/short takeoff and landing plane and it achieved this astonishing feat by using directable nozzles on its jet engines. Despite its advanced age, it has yet to be beaten and development continues.

► And this is me, crashing into the sea after another failed attempt at the Trivia Quiz. Damn those smug airmen.



Information

Aviation Adventure is published by Knowledge Adventure and distributed by Guildsoft (☎ 01752 895100). It costs £45.

Air Havoc Controller

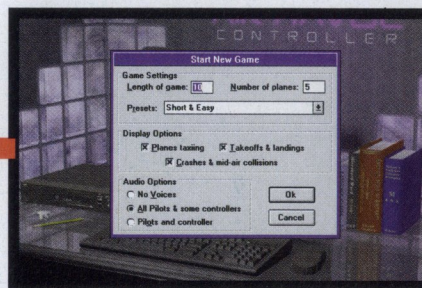
Roger, Over. What's our vector, Victor? We have clearance, Clarence. Tim Norris always thought it would be fun to be an air traffic controller. So we gave him the chance to pretend for a while.

Start ↓



Click on the monitor to begin a new game.

From the main screen, you can start a game, read the Encyclopedia of Aircraft, look at the pretty pictures and animations (click on the video recorder), or go back to the real world (car keys). Let's play a game.



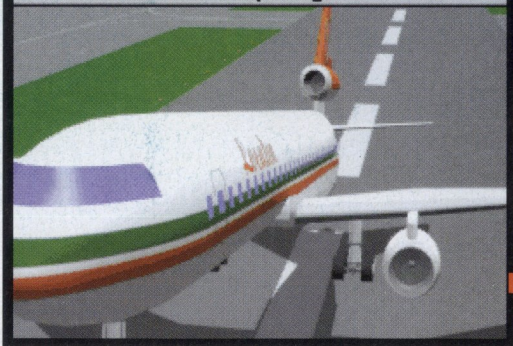
You start by setting the game parameters. How long should it last? How many planes should there be? Which animations should you see (on slower PCs, you may prefer not to bother with taxiing and taking off – they're not that exciting and they do slow things down a bit). Don't bother with Pilots and Controller audio option, it'll drive you barking mad.

Sure enough, it asks to be released. There it goes, on its way to waypoint Beta (once you've told it which way that is, of course).

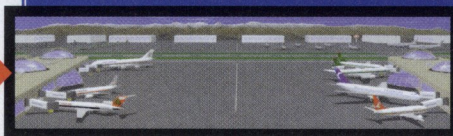
It starts simply enough. The plane backing out of its parking space is 7093-charlie and it'll want to go soon. Keep your eyes and ears open...



Localia DC-10 departing from Phoenix



Things are starting to hot up now, with five planes in our bit of space. Better do something about those two on the right there – looks like a near miss in the making.

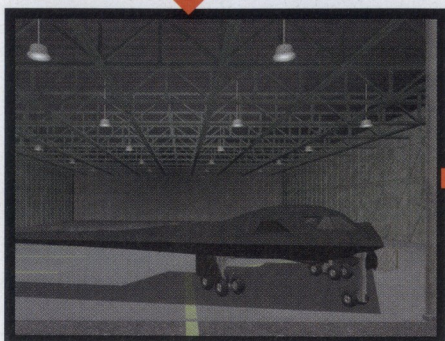


Too late. Still, maybe no one noticed.

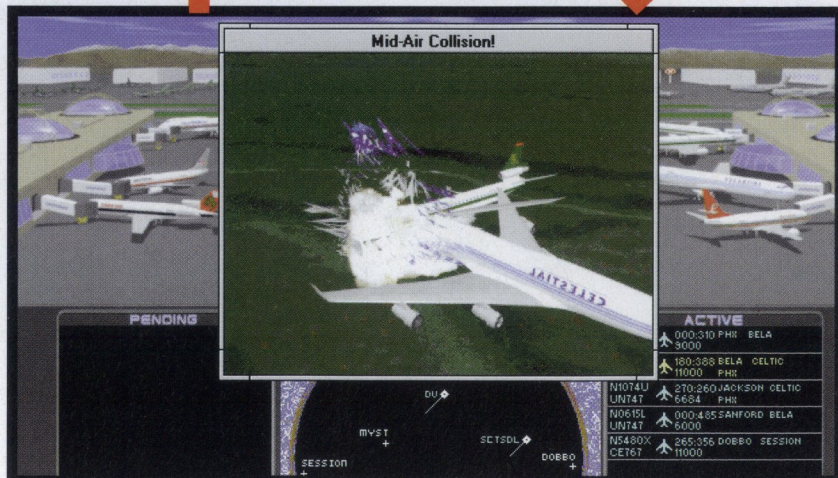
I don't think we can sweep this one under the carpet. Someone's bound to complain about our allowing that 767 to fly into the DC10. Damn.



Here's the strangest thing. I managed a near miss and a collision, and I allowed at least one plane to leave my space without handing them on to the next controller. But because I landed one, I get a 'mission accomplished' message. There's no other feedback at all. No comments. No advice. Nothing. New game anyone?



Here's one of those Stealth Bomber things. Apparently, they have the same radar footprint as a baseball, which accounts for the anti-aircraft fire that ruined so many Red Sox home games last season.



AIR HAVOC CONTROLLER

▲ Air Traffic Controllers are impressive, but they're not infallible. A friend once asked permission to cross an airport's controlled zone and was asked to circle. He was flying a hot air balloon...

◀ From previous page

Air Havoc Controller

Goodness me, what a palaver. There I was, trying to direct a 747 full of holiday makers through my airspace, when this inbound

Lear Jet comes tootling into view on its way to Phoenix. But I couldn't talk to him because I was trying to release a plane from Phoenix on its way goodness knows where. And then a westbound 767... I think I need to lie down.

Air Havoc Controller is the latest in a long line of air traffic control simulators. You have a radar screen, a set of basic commands to issue to the planes, a few rules to remember (most of them about not letting the planes crash into one another) and it's up to you to see everyone safely to

their destination through a series of increasingly complex scenarios involving more planes, more airports and more problems. It doesn't actually sound all that promising as a game concept, but I was strangely fascinated. For a little while.

Clearly the central part of the game, the actual movement of the planes and their representation on the radar screen, isn't going to tax your multimedia PC overmuch – the program could be written in BASIC and run on any half decent pocket calculator or electronic diary. So to chivvy things up a bit there's loads of lovingly rendered animation of planes taking off, landing, just missing each other and crashing spectacularly in mid-air which interrupt the main action to give you more of an idea of what's going on.

There's also sampled speech to let you hear what the pilots are saying. You can, if you have a high confusion threshold, also hear the voice of the controller, but since

"It doesn't actually sound all that promising as a game concept, but I was strangely fascinated. For a little while."

his voice sounds the same as all the pilots, it rapidly becomes a living nightmare of incoherent messages. "937-echo turn to one-five-zero" – "937-echo turning to one-five-zero" – "824-november level at

8,000 feet" – "824-november radar contact". Who's talking? What's going on? Do I have to do something now? I left the controller's voice off.

When you're bored of crashing planes, you can take a tour of the hangars and look at rendered images of planes of all shapes and sizes, or watch all the animated sequences. It's all very charming, and no doubt plane spotters everywhere will love it.

But it's hard to know whether to recommend it. It certainly doesn't make the best use of your PC's capabilities, but that can't be the only criterion, can it? I enjoyed it for a while and went back for plenty of extra goes, but after a couple of days it got very samey. It's a test of concentration more than anything else and the actual game objectives aren't really all that exciting ('send the planes where they want to go and don't let them crash').

I soon lost sight of the real purpose of the thing and found myself trying to choreograph spectacular collisions involving more than two planes (much more difficult than I thought it would be – I never managed it) and seeing how close together you can land two planes before they hit one another. It's never a good sign when you start trying to make up your own rules.

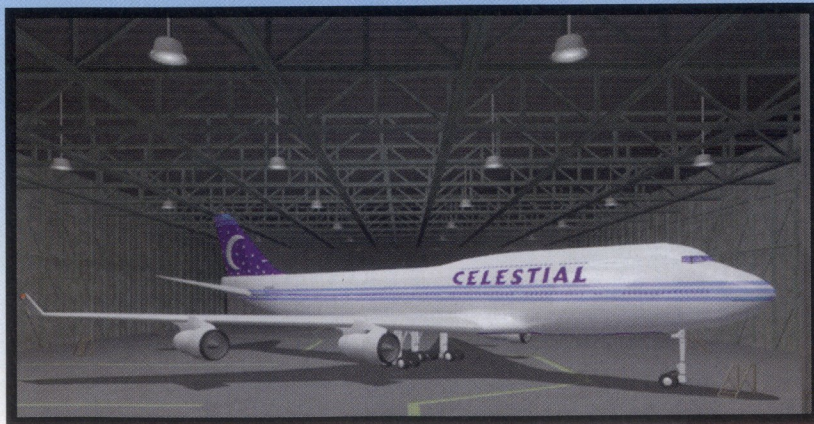
I think, on balance, that I'd have to say that only die-hard Air Traffic Controller wannabes are going to enjoy it – there's just not enough to capture the imagination of the rest of us for more than the occasional play.

Lear Jet – The C-35 Gates Lear is an executive jet that carries up to 10 passengers. Powered by two Garrett AiResearch TFE 731-3-2B turbofans, each developing 3,500 lbs of thrust, it has a top speed of 464 knots, and can take you 2,300 miles on one tank of fuel. It has a 45,000 foot ceiling, which must be a devil to paint, even if you've got a step ladder.

► Here's a large passenger jet in its natural habitat. Curiously, when seen in flight, this plane's logo is printed in reverse. Must be something to do with the speed.

Information

Air Havoc Controller is published by Trimark and distributed by Domark (☎ 0181 780 2222). It costs £35.



Average

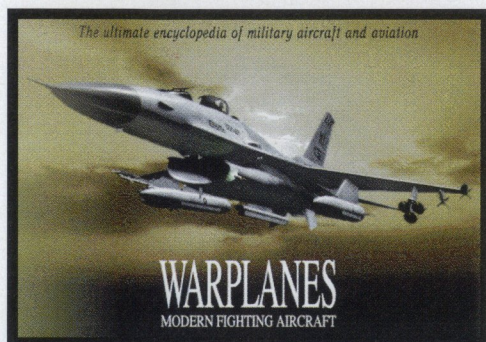


Continued overleaf ►

See also

"Please sir, can I have some more?" asked Oliver.
"More!" shrieked Mr Bumble. "Of course you can, my boy.
We have plenty for everyone – just help yourself."

◀ From previous page



Warplanes

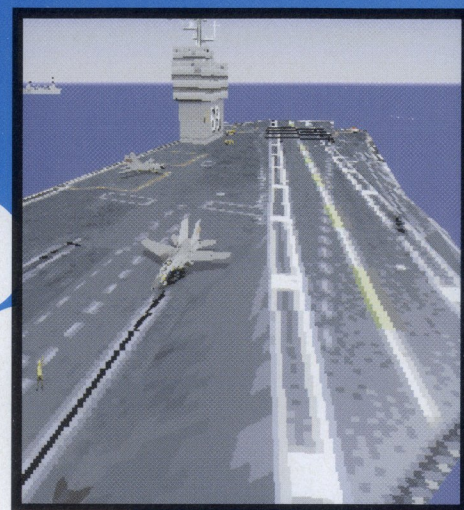
Maris Multimedia, better known for its excellent *Redshift*, has pulled out all the stops on this encyclopedia of warplanes. It's

stylish, with a cockpit-style interface for accessing an enormous amount of technical data on flying stars of the cold war.

A barrage of weapon systems is covered in minute detail and, unlike so many discs, *Warplanes* makes excellent use of animation, video and photography. There are even three flight simulators built in, but they're rather basic. If you're after a polished multimedia production, with copious amounts of baffling technical data thrown in for good measure, this is the one to go for.

Warplanes is distributed by Mindscape (☎ 01444 246333). It costs £55.

Good



US Navy Fighters

If you thought *Flight Unlimited* looked like a game for sissies, you'll probably be more interested in this shoot-to-kill flight sim from Electronic Arts. We reviewed it in full in issue 9, so I won't bore you overmuch by repeating all the details.

The gist is that you are a hero, and you'll be even more of a hero once you've killed Johnny Foreigner and his raving hoards. You fly, you fight, you look around you at how gorgeous everything looks. *US Navy Fighters* is the game that *Air Storm* should have been but wasn't.

Everything about it is right, from the detailed graphics, through the well structured gameplay and on to the selectable screen resolution. It's the first ever CD-ROM-only flight sim and every last bit of the massive storage space on the shiny disc has been filled with wonderful flying things. Buy it. Or get someone to buy it for you. Today.

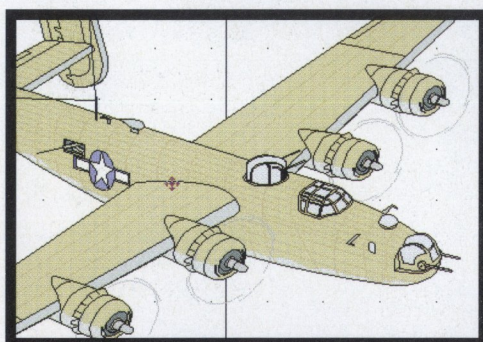
US Navy Fighters is published by Electronic Arts (☎ 01753 549442). It costs £50.

Very good



See also

Wings of Glory in
Game Scene p101. →



Arts & Letters - Warbirds

Warbirds gives every appearance of being a graphics program, but has a mysterious 'database' lurking within. The database contains info on planes, pilots, aerial combat, as well as pictures, silhouettes, and sound effects from the Japanese Air Force yelling "Banzai" to the sound of an Avro Lancaster.

I have to confess to being somewhat nonplussed. There is some interesting information, with a graphics program thrown in as well. Er, well, yes.

Warbirds is published by Arts & Letters and is distributed by the National CD-ROM Company (☎ 01293 884146). Call for details.

Strange



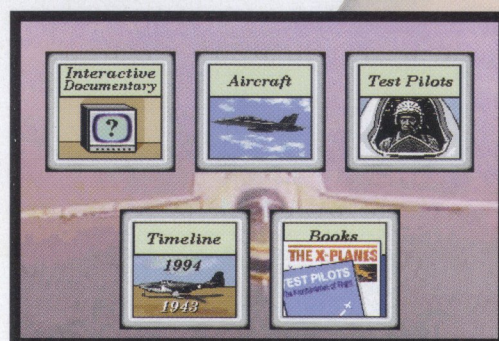
Jets

Jets looks at the history of military jets, from 1943 to 1994. It includes a couple of books on the subject, and colour photos of 150 planes. There's biographies of designers and test pilots, as well as animated 3D models that you can spin around on the screen.

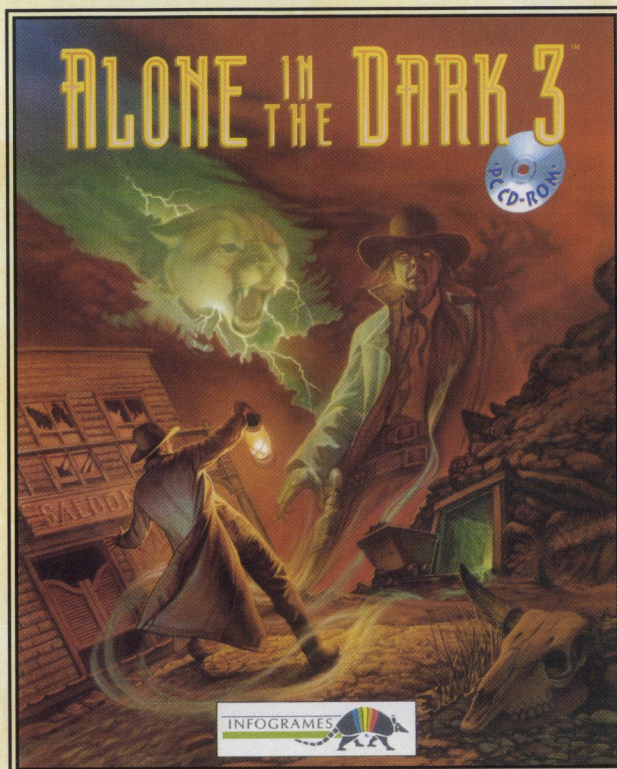
The obligatory video footage is there with clips of fighters taking off, landing and doing stomach-churning things in between. You'll only find it of interest if you're a serious plane spotter.

Jets is published by Medio and is distributed by Gem (☎ 01279 412441). It costs £50.

Pretty good



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We're making

Film companies have realised that the Internet is a great way of promoting their films to an enormous audience. Richard Longhurst explores multimedia movies on the World Wide Web.

I

nterest in the Internet, and the World Wide Web in particular, is growing rapidly. Surprisingly, the companies who are most eager to adopt the technology are not computer manufacturers or software developers, but film and music producers. Perhaps it's not surprising that the likes of MCA/Universal, Buena Vista and Paramount have realised that the Net hooks them straight into a mass-market audience, and as a result they've invested in producing some of the glossiest multimedia sites on the Web.

Internet traditionalists complain that it's this sort of

commercialisation that's polluting the Net's previously crystal-clear, business-free waters. But the Web is ideal for promoting products and services, and offering movie buffs something they wouldn't normally be able to get hold of. Exclusive video clips of soon-to-be-released films, messages from the stars, photos of the casts, full plot synopses and behind-the-scenes gossip are just some of the bonus items that film fans can pick up from the numerous Web-based movie sites.

Hollywood doesn't do things by half, so you can expect the sites

of the major film companies to be packed with graphics, sound and video – they look great but it can take a long time to get to the information if you have a slow Net connection. This brings us back to the issue of commercialisation.

Until recently, the backbone of the Internet (the National Science Federation Network or NSFNet) in the US was funded by the Government, but now the money's run out.

So, if the businesses who have seen the future and have already set up on-line sites want to make the most of their money, it's in their

"One of the best things about the database is that it's interactive – if a film's missing, you can add it yourself."

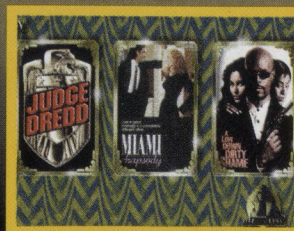


▲ Welcome to the Buena Vista Movieplex. Click on any of the film names to go straight to the preview pages, or why not just walk straight through the swinging doors – admission's free.



▼ In the lobby you can have a quick quiz with the Movie Brain or click on the back wall to choose one of Buena Vista's three production companies.

▼ Hollywood Pictures has got three movies on the boil at the moment – let's see what Sly's getting up to in Judge Dredd.



▼ There's a choice of a movie trailer or a picture – it's not much, but it's better than nothing.



movies

interest to play an active role in developing the Internet's infrastructure, and that means being good corporate citizens and investing in the Net.

But that's all in the future, and in the mean time there's plenty to interest casual and avid movie goers alike. A good starting point is the Cardiff Movie Database (<http://www.cm.cf.ac.uk/Movies/>) which is the on-line equivalent of Microsoft's *Cinemania*. You can search the database for any film, actor or character, call up a top (and bottom) 100 list of films, scan through some famous movie marriages, and get some interesting trivia from the 'on this day in history' section.

One of the best things about the database is that it's interactive – if a film's missing, you can add it yourself. As well as collating reviews from the press and the rec.arts.movies.review newsgroup, the site gives you the chance to add your opinion to the database by enabling you to give the films a rating. It also provides countless

links to other movie resources on the Web, so when you call up *The Lion King's* details there's a link to Disney's official *Lion King* pages, for example.

And for those of you who live on the fringe, bored by all the conventional stuff that film producers usually try to feed you, you'll find the Cardiff Movie Database caters for a wide range of tastes. If there isn't an official site to link to, the chances are that an ardent fan has set up an unofficial shrine to his or her movie god.

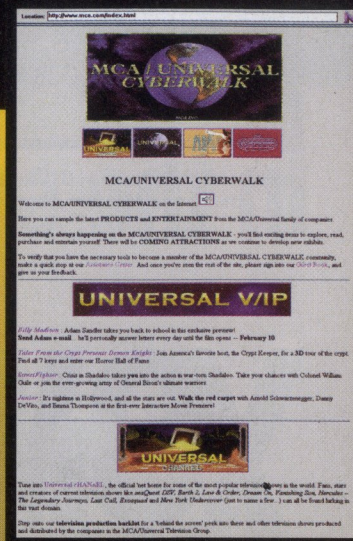
These sites often don't have the glossy production values of official pages, but they are created with such enthusiasm and imagination that you can't help but be impressed. The *Pulp Fiction* pages we looked at last month are pretty good, but they pale in comparison with the unofficial *Church of Tarantino* (<http://www.aston.ac.uk/~smallmj>) which was obviously a labour of love for a dedicated student at Aston University.

End ■

Information

Future Publishing's part of the World Wide Web is called FutureNet, and it's here that you'll find information on all of Future Publishing's magazines.

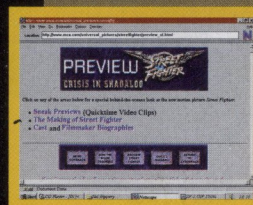
To get on to FutureNet, load your World Wide Web browser, point it at <http://www.futurenet.co.uk/> and you'll be presented with the FutureNet main menu. CD-ROM Today is at <http://www.futurenet.co.uk/computing/CD-ROM Today>



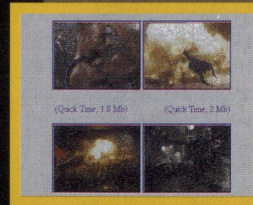
▲ The MCA/Universal home page is one of the most overblown bandwidth gobblers on the Net. This graphical extravaganza throws you into the thick of things, offering links to other sections. Let's see what the new Street Fighter movie has in store...



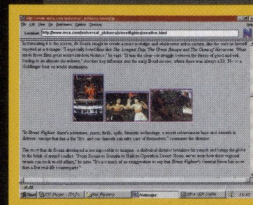
◀ There's everything the avid kick-boxer could want, but what we're really after is a picture of Kylie showing what she's made of.



◀ The preview section lets you choose from a trio of tantalising tit-bits.



◀ There's a load of film clips to download, providing you have the time and can afford the lengthy phone call...

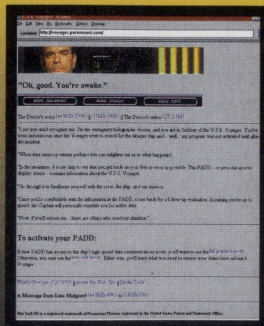


◀ But there are also some groovy images tucked away in the plot breakdown and the crew information. Doesn't that look like...



◀ ...yes! It is. Miss Minogue in her karate-kicking prime. She really looks like she means it, doesn't she?

Paramount
<http://voyage.paramount.com/>



▲ Paramount's been busy plugging its Voyager series on the Net with video clips, pictures and cast info.

▼ The graphics on the Web site recreate the consoles on the ship in the series (as Trekkers will already know).



► Here are the intrepid voyagers, voyaging forth in a voyage kind of way.



In the spotlight

Xplora 1

Best
buy

► Is this yet another freaky interpretation of Gabriel's face? No, actually it's the site plan for the WOMAD concert. Explore it on the disc.



Peter Gabriel finally opens his *Secret World* to the PC fraternity. Matthew Richards steps inside for a closer look.



Xplora 1 – it's a funny old secret world. In spite of the PC's overpowering popularity, Peter Gabriel's disc has taken well over a year to make its arduous transition from the original Macintosh format. Perhaps he should have borrowed a title from Bob Dylan and called it *Slow Train Coming*.

In the dim and distant past of multimedia, *Xplora 1: Peter Gabriel's Secret World* was a headline act. But now it has to share the stage with newer contenders in the shape of *Prince Interactive* and David Bowie's *Jump*, to name but a couple. So, can *Xplora* stay the distance?

The PC version is, in theory, identical to the Mac edition. And that's not altogether a bad thing. Right from the start, *Xplora* exudes class. There's an awful lot of imagination, effort, and attention to detail in the disc, and it shines through.

The illustration work is glorious, the videos of *Digging in the Dirt*, *Steam*, and *Kiss That Frog* are stunning, and the interface is superbly conceived. Then there's the music. I won't say anything about that – either you like Gabriel's stuff, or you don't.

But there are a couple of things that set *Xplora* apart from many another pop ROM for me. The first is that it neatly side-steps the temptation to become some



▲ Relive the post-Genesis years with this complete discography. The way the first few albums were all called 'Peter Gabriel' made them easy to tell apart.



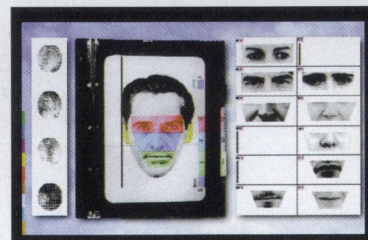
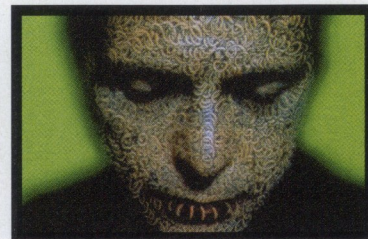
Information

Xplora 1 is for Windows (finally) and costs £49.99 from Mirage (☎ 01260 299909). A collector's version with audio CDs, extra book, and video cassette is available for £79.99.

kind of sycophantic revelry in the pomp of some overblown rock star. It has a head start here: Gabriel himself is a much more interesting character than most of the inhabitants of the pop world.

The second thing that *Xplora* does very well is to give you the feeling that you really are entering Peter Gabriel's Secret World. It masters the elusive trick of interactivity, so you really do explore the disc. There's a feeling that there's much more to the disc than at first meets the eye.

As you travel around, without any constraints of having to do things in some particular order, you can collect objects and earn privileges. This opens new doors to you, like the door to the studios at Box, where you can remix some of the songs. Or you can pick up



▲ Before you can explore the secret world, you have to put the Gabriel identikit picture together. Oops, we've given the game away already! And above is what Lisa, our Art Ed, affectionately calls the 'worm man'.

some backstage passes for Womad and the Brit awards.

The Windows edition is not quite as slick as the Mac version. Some of the transition effects between screens are a little jerky. A few of the QuickTime clips are a bit glitchy, and don't work properly if you happen to have QuickTime 2 installed on your system. Still, on the whole, *Xplora* looks as good as it did a year ago, in spite of newer and supposedly wiser competition. It's certainly still one of my desert island discs.

Very good





▲ Yes are still around, but this latest project is more along the lines of a rehash, rather than a rebirth.



▲ Yes Active is actually one of the most passive CD-ROM experiences you'll find. There are a few video clips and pictures, and audio mutilations of all the tracks on the Talk album.

In the spotlight

Yes Active

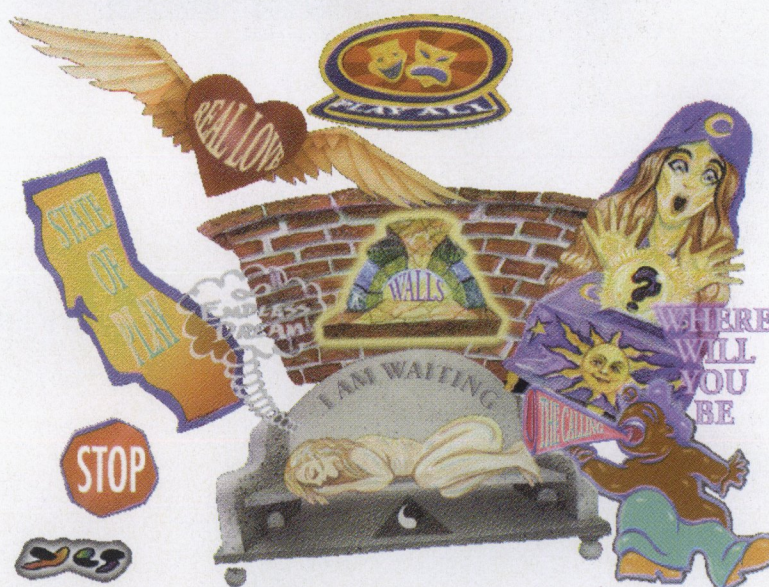
Rock superheroes of the Seventies, Yes, hitch their bandwagon to multimedia. Matthew Richards tags along for the ride.



es, indeed. A disc lands on my desk, and suddenly it's only five minutes since playground talk of whether *Fragile* was better than *The Yes Album*, if Chris Squire was the best bass player in the world, and if Jon Anderson required the help of a sharp stick to reach those high notes.

Counting the years since the heyday of supergroup Yes in the early '70s is a somewhat more scary proposition. So what's all this new *Yes Active* malarkey on CD-ROM? QuickTime clips of the 'boys' zimmering around the stage, perhaps? Well actually they're growing old ever-so-slightly more gracefully. *Yes Active* bills itself with the high-falutin' title of 'interactive sleeve notes' for the band's latest album, *Talk*.

But hang on. Who buys music to read the sleeve notes? Well, there's more stashed on the CD than this. For a start, you get the complete album on the disc, albeit in sound files that have been unceremoniously sampled at 8-bit 22kHz. It sounds like a cross between medium wave radio and



the 'phone. Still, the developers had to make room for all the other stuff on the disc, so that's fair enough. And two of the tracks (*State of Play*, and *Where Will You Be*) are laid as high quality audio tracks you can play on your hi-fi.

The extras that the CD-ROM provides are a nifty little interface for getting the stories behind the songs, as told to a video camera by members of the band (mostly Jon Anderson). It's a shame he seems to be quite so bored with it all.

A couple of tracks have videos of live performances, but the quality of the small windows is a let-down, and hardly stretches the limits of the brand-spanking-new QuickTime 2 for Windows that they use. Occasionally there are demo or instrumental versions of songs to listen to, as well.

Other features include a Jukebox, although it's just another way of loading the tracks, with

▲ Here's the Jukebox screen. Just click the track you want to hear, but this is the only picture for all of the songs.

only one new illustration to share between them. There's also a discography and history of the band, and profiles of the members, but again, the presentation is poor.

For a band with its history of stunning Roger Dean cover designs, you can't help feeling more should have been done with the graphic content. Animated slide shows to accompany the music, perhaps? More movement and spontaneity in the interface would have been nice, too.

All in all, *Yes Active* is an opportunity missed. For something with Active in the title, it turns out to be a sadly passive experience. Mind you, for avid Yes fans, it's still going to be worth £20.

Flawed

★★★★☆

Information

Yes Active is published by Compton's New Media. It costs £20 in the UK, from Koch (☎ 01252 714340).

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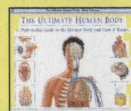
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▲ Fun 'n' Facts includes great concert halls, such as this one, in the town "built by Sydney". Ho, ho.

In the spotlight

Closet Conductor

Ever fancied conducting an orchestra?
Here's your chance to do just that, with a
CD-ROM plus two CDs of music to conduct.
Plus a baton. Rob Ainsley conducts the test...



et in the shower, and most people become Kiri Te Kanawa or Luciano Pavarotti. Put someone in a room with their favourite orchestral masterpiece playing, and suddenly they're Toscanini. The idea of controlling a symphony orchestra with a stick is irresistible. The world is full of closet conductors.

Hence *Closet Conductor*, which lets you "conduct the classics in the privacy of your own home". There's a disc about conducting, two CDs of famous classics to try your new skills out on and even a baton.

Classical music is still daunting to a lot of people. The good news is that this is very user-friendly. No technical terms, no jargon, no high-blown language – everything is down-to-earth, jokey and fun. The CD-ROM is basically infotainment – snippety facts, and lots of humorous commentaries about conductors and conducting. Lecturing is kept to a minimum – the Famous Conductors section restricts itself to six (US-biased) names, and Famous Concert Halls is similarly brief.

The skills you learn are minimal: how to beat in two (a march), three (waltz) and four (foxtrot), and how to make an orchestra play louder or softer.



▲ The Beats section is the only one that actually teaches anything about conducting: here's how to beat a waltz.



▲ Click The Conductor and you end up here. Every section has a jokey introduction from Bill Broughton, the chap in the middle.

Information

Closet Conductor is published by Intersound in the USA (☎ 0101 404 664 9262) and costs \$80 (c. £50).



▲ The main menu lets you open these six 'doors' to other areas, with a squeak loud enough to ruin any rehearsal.

That's it. Still, you could argue this is all you really need in the way of baton technique.

Having learned that, turn off your PC and let yourself loose on the two CDs. You'll recognise every one of the 33 tracks from ads or films, and the CDs form a mini compendium of those damn-I-know-this-one pieces (Bach's Hamlet ad, Dvorak's Hovis music etc). Great fun (though similar CD sets cost the price of a small round in your local record shop.)

Humour is everywhere. In several sections, clicking on a button generates a randomly selected joke. But dealing with classical music in a humorous way is difficult to bring off. To me, the humour used incessantly by the

CD-ROM's host, Bill Broughton, is trite and tiresome. Here are two typical jokes. "Hear about the maestro who survived three attempted executions at the electric chair? He wasn't a good conductor!" "Wagner was good at composing while he was alive – but since his death he's been decomposing!"

If that doubles you up, you and your fellow inmates are in for a treat. If not – well, the good news is that the CD-ROM only takes about 45 minutes to work through completely.

All in all, if you care about classical music, you may find *Closet Conductor* a bit silly and superficial. But it's great fun if you think the classical scene is too stuffy, and you like American humour – and you'll love conducting the CDs.

Average

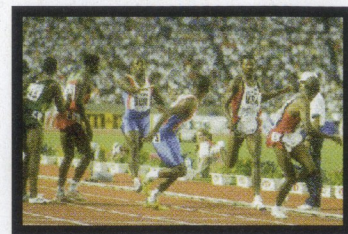


In the spotlight

The People's Century

A handy educational resource or a CD-ROM version of a glossy coffee-table book? Rachel Harrison flicks through a pictorial history disc.

► One of the few colour photographs shows the British relay team in the 1991 World Athletics Championships, held in Tokyo.



Don't you just love flicking through those small volumes of sepia photographs of yesteryear? I do.

However, *The People's Century* isn't designed as a coffee-table CD-ROM.

It's basically a resource tool with 1,000 historical photographs of famous people, events and ordinary people in everyday situations. These are accompanied by captions, but many of these are sadly limited in detail. One quotes: "There has been a Chinese community in Britain for many years, with its own newspapers, shops etc, as shown in this picture." Similar

Information

The People's Century is published by Collins Educational (☎ 0141 306 3484) for £146.88.

▼ Here you see the Nigel Mansell of the 1990s. Strangely, Grand Prix in those days lacked the excitement of modern day motor racing.



▲ For those of you too young to remember, here are The Beatles.



▲ Some things may change, but traffic jams in Piccadilly Circus don't.

comments are made about the Jewish community, and some captions have explanations that are even less enlightening.

But as an educational tool, *The People's Century* is far more useful than a batch of old photographs. The analysis section encourages children to look at the photographs and really think about the evidence they provide, without jumping to conclusions. It took me back to my school days – in fact some of the photographs were ones that my own history teacher used.

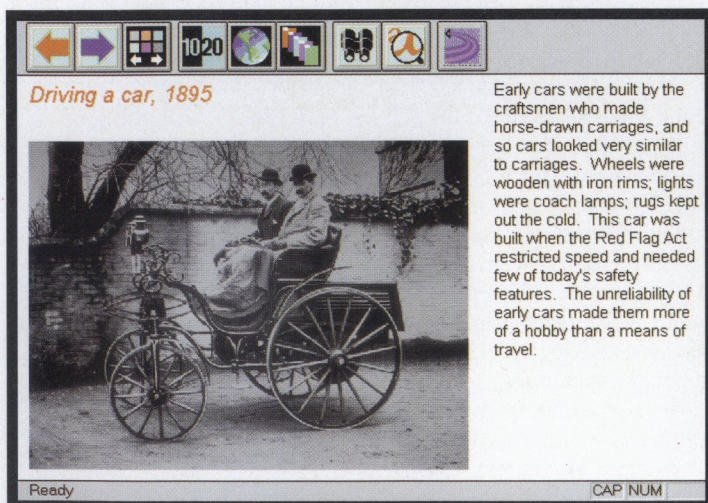
That said, however, teaching children how to use photographs as primary historical sources is something that a teacher would most likely do from the front of the classroom. And in all honesty, I can't imagine very many 14-year-olds plodding through the CD-ROM unless the teacher was pointing a gun at their heads – which, of course, they're not allowed to do, yet.

So *The People's Century* will probably be of most use if you're a teacher. You can plough through the disc using its search facilities to find photographs, print them out and then use

them in the classroom. Browsing through the disc is fairly easy. From the main menu you can go to the decade of your choice (from before 1900 to the 1990s), or look at photos relevant to particular locations, or take one of 12 themes as your base, with Politics, Empire, Leisure, War and so on.

So far, so good. Try searching more specifically and you may have problems. Searching by decade, place, theme or key word isn't a problem, as you have to use the words provided in the list. Start being a little more independent and using your own words to search and you may come unstuck. After looking up Hitler, I tried Chairman Mao, but got the Hitler photographs again. The same thing happened when I tried Red Rum.

History teachers may well appreciate another resource, even if it is lacking in multimedia features. At the end of the day, however, it is little more than one of those glossy hardback books, but bigger, on CD-ROM.



Pretty good ★★★★★

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Telephone

Post Code



▲ This happy looking family shot shows Ra and his not-so-merry men outside his spaceship/palace/pyramid.



▲ Here's Kurt Russell looking serious. Don't frown so much Kurt, the lines on your forehead will become permanent.

In the spotlight

Secrets of Stargate

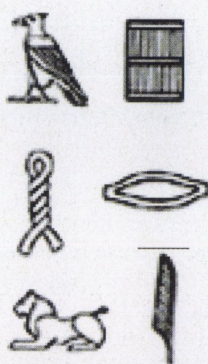
You've seen the film, read the book, bought the t-shirt and finished off you popcorn. Now delve into the *Secrets of Stargate* – if you can find them. Rachel Harrison has a close encounter...

Perhaps I'm not the best person to judge *Stargate*. After all, I haven't seen the film. But everyone I know who watched it said it was dismal. So I felt a little dubious even before I slammed the disc into the drive.

Secrets of Stargate – The Making of an Epic Adventure Film starts with a trailer from the film, and the quality of the QuickTime for Windows video is rather poor. After that, you enter the rather snazzily rendered main hall of Ra's spaceship/palace thingie. It looks fabulous, and is possibly one of the most gorgeous interfaces I've ever come across. Unfortunately, as with so many beautifully wrapped things, the content doesn't live up to the packaging. I thought I was going to learn how the special effects were created, with all sorts of fascinating insights. Instead, I didn't find much to interest me at all.

Basically, you click around the hall until you find one of the main menus: Movies, People, Art/Stills, Storyboards, and Ancient Wisdom. The Movies menu contains, not surprisingly, film clips. The Behind the Scenes clips belie their title. Instead of finding out what happens behind the scenes, you simply see film clips with cameras hovering in the background.

The Special Effects section is also disappointing. Most of the special effects are simply silent clips



Information

Secrets of Stargate: The Making of an Epic Adventure is published by Compton's New Media and available from GEM (☎ 01279 412441). It costs £35.

► The interface is based on the inside of Ra's palace. It looks snazzy, but unfortunately the contents of the disc aren't.



from the film, and most are so dark you can't see what's happening. There is no explanation of how they were created and no diagrams detailing techniques.

The only detailed commentary on anything to do with the film is in the Interviews section. But even here, actors, producers and special effects people talk about their topics with so little enthusiasm that you soon become bored.

Moving swiftly on, there's the Art/Stills menu which is pretty self-explanatory. The People menu gives you biographies on those involved in the film. The Storyboard menu contains sketches showing the precise detail of different scenes. If you've seen the film, this won't interest you, as

you'll already know when the camera switches to a different angle, and what happens next.

Ancient Wisdom is interesting to anyone with an interest in Egypt. It contains information on gods, hieroglyphics, The Great Pyramid and The Sphinx. I found it the best part of the disc, but probably only because I've been to Egypt. As far as I can make out, it has little to do with the film.

I can't help feeling that this is yet another CD-ROM that would have been so much better if it hadn't been a CD-ROM. A video of the making of *Stargate* would probably have held me captivated. But this disc is extremely disjointed and simply didn't tell me anything I wanted to know. And even if you're one of the few who saw the film and loved it, you'll probably feel the same.

Flawed



In the spotlight

Director's Lab

Best
buy

▲ The music-making studio was the source of great hilarity for me. I'm tone-deaf and can't tell a flute from a lute, but I still wrote my own song.



Viacom, owners of Sky TV and the Nickelodeon channel, are serious about video – almost. Their new disc lets kids like Garrick Webster go rampant with sounds, music, graphics and video editing...

Pre-saved photos and text options are available from the disc, but the text and graphics sections are too limited. Most children who have played with shareware graphics applications will expect more.

Then there's the video suite, where you can toy with hundreds of video clips. There are 32 in the animals section alone, and although each is only three seconds long, the range of images is legion. Once you've picked a clip, you can stick shapes on each frame, including lightning, bouncing eyeballs flashes, and so on. These can form animations, or just flash up for fun.

When you've made music, sound effects, titles and video, you can put them all together using the director's lab. At first it will be giggles galore, but it takes quite a bit of practice in the different areas to get things coordinated. When you're done, you can save the whole thing to hard disc or floppy.

Although not foolproof, *Director's Lab* can be wildly humorous and it's really easy to use. For kids in need of creative fun, it will make a great buy.

Very good



▲ In the sound effects suite you can mix the sound of a train and a cow, a chicken and a cartoon, or a river and a bear. Save the sound and you can use it with a video.

Information

Director's Lab is being distributed in the UK by CIC (☎ 0181 563 4013). They're not selling direct, but the disc will be available through the main High Street retailers at under £50. Sky's Nickelodeon Channel will reportedly be broadcasting any videos they receive created with the disc.

F

un! Yes, the emphasis of this disc is on being creative and having fun, rather than production perfectionism. *Director's Lab* gives children the

opportunity to create their own videos, along with special effects, music, graphics and titles. Load up the program, and you find yourself in a colourfully decorated studio hallway with doors to a music studio, sound FX room, video suite, graphic studio, director's lab and screening room.

Of course, you could play all serious about this and methodically construct a video through a TV-style production storyboard, but it's a lot more fun to experiment with what's on offer.

▲ Enter the plush environs of the Director's Lab and you're greeted by a friendly face plus doors to all the creative studios you can use.

In the music studio you can set a four bar score for up to nine instruments across two octaves. It's free form, so you can make any combination of instruments you like. Okay, it won't teach you anything about music – there's only one note length and no key constraints – but once children figure out what a racket they can create, they'll be there for ages. And besides, there are 48 editable pieces of real music to load in.

But video cannot live by tunes alone, so there are rooms where you can make graphics backgrounds and title screens, then save them.

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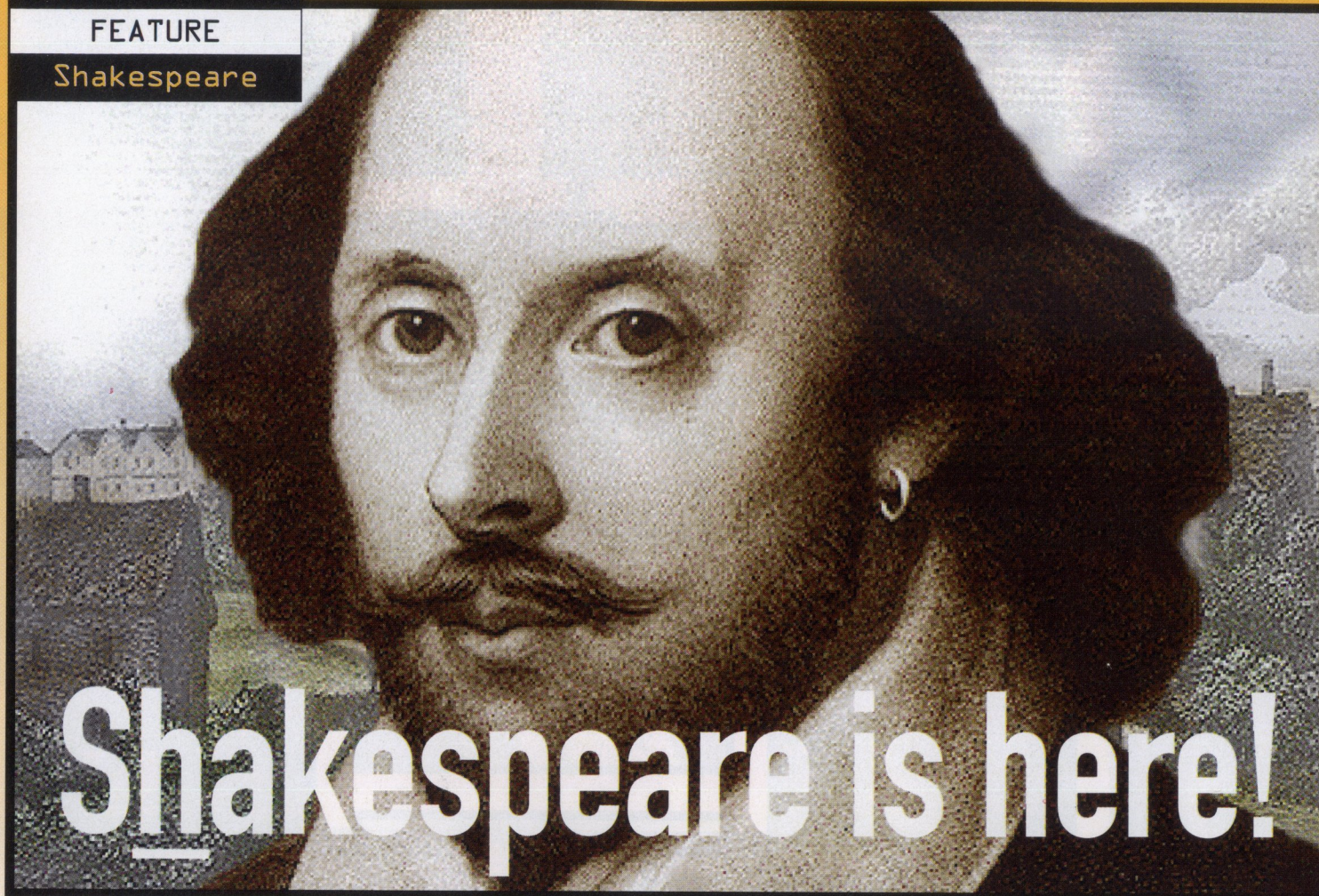
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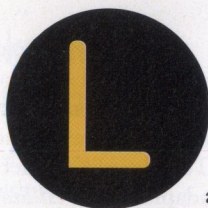
FEATURE

Shakespeare



Shakespeare is here!

We've had the chance, finally, to do our long awaited Shakespeare reviews feature. Join our favourite dramatist, Garrick Webster, as he turns his PC into a Shakespearean theatre.



ove it or hate it, you can't deny that Shakespeare's writing has been among the most popular and enduring of all time. For around 400 years his plays have been performed on stages all around the world. They've been converted into ballets and adapted into musicals like *West Side Story*. Silver screen performances of Shakespeare's greatest plays have topped the box office charts for nearly as long as there has been cinema. Even ace action actors, earning multi-millions per picture, have turned to Shakespeare to inject credit into their careers as well as their bank balances.

It almost goes without saying that Shakespeare's plays in particular are extremely well suited to the CD-ROM medium. And I don't just mean because of their popularity. The real reason I think

Shakespeare can work so well on a multimedia disc is because it comes across on so many levels.

You can, for instance, read *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, or *A Midsummer Night's Dream* all your life, and still keep finding new meanings in them. Likewise, you can go to the theatre or cinema and see the same play interpreted in a multitude of different ways.

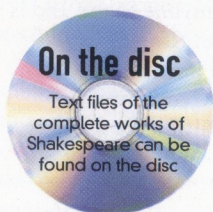
Yet despite the timeless qualities of Shakespeare's writings, there is one major obstacle to many people's full appreciation today – and that's the language. Because English has changed so much over the centuries, Shakespeare's plays are beginning to seem archaic to many of us. It's easy to see how book versions of the plays can appear one-dimensional, even with full glossaries and textual notes.

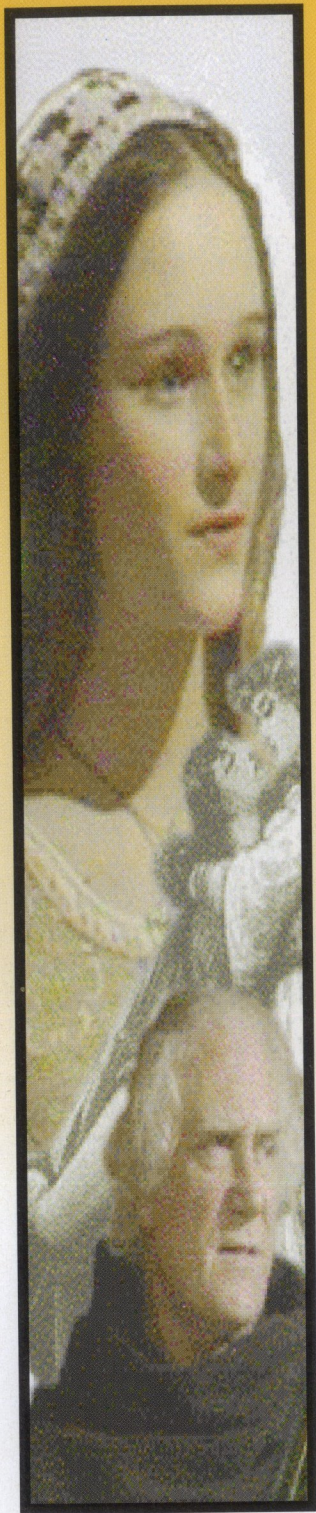
Seeing plays on stage with no background to Elizabethan language is equally baffling.

Put a play on CD-ROM, and this can all change. Immediately obvious is the usefulness of hypertext – being able to get the meaning of a word or phrase instantly. Audio readings of a play to accompany the text will demonstrate pronunciation and the metre of the verse, while all sorts of notes, pictures, videos, criticisms and background material can make a disc not only useful for reference, but interesting to browse and enjoyable to experience.

Of course, as Shakespeare wrote volumes, one approach has been to cram all the text on to a disc, throwing in a search facility, music and a few other screens. Such discs have their uses, but the ones I really rate are those that not only convey the play well, but also have the features to bring it alive for all. A disc with a decent interface, good content and engaging extras should ensure Shakespeare continues to be enjoyed far into the 21st century.

Continued overleaf ►





Romeo & Juliet

The curtain rises on a disc that not only provides you with a performance of Romeo and Juliet, but also explains the whole play and keeps you interested along the way...

Best buy

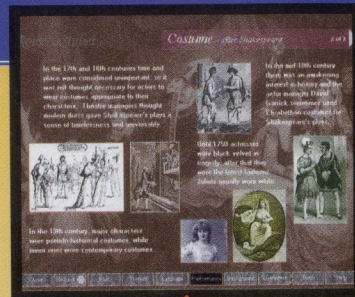
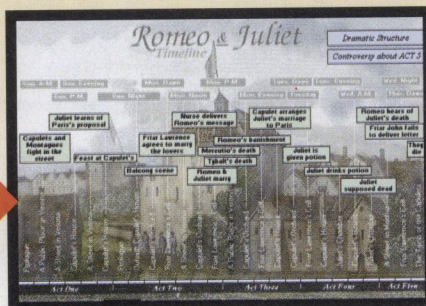
Further diversions are possible in the performance section. This screen on costumes describes the development of stage costumes over the centuries. Each picture can be expanded to full-screen size like this...



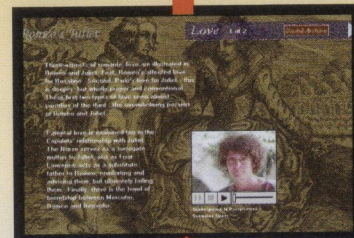
From this main screen you can go straight to any of the supplementary material, or into the play itself by clicking the centre of the hexagon.



During the reading of the play, you get the full text which pages through automatically. Pictures of the characters appear if they have lines, and you can click the blue question flags for notes on text or on the blue words for their meanings.



Or, you can check out the play's main themes, one of which is love. When you get to this screen, you can watch a video from a programme by Germaine Greer who talks about Romeo and Juliet's clandestine marriage and the history of such marriages.



At any time during the performance, you can jump out of the play to use a range of reference material, or to look at screens like this timeline which gives the main action of each scene and its estimated actual time of day.

◀ From previous page

Romeo & Juliet

Like the play at its heart, the strength of this CD-ROM version of *Romeo and Juliet* is that it works on many levels. It's great for schoolchildren coming to the play for the first time, and probably just as useful for undergraduates already familiar with the bard. Even if you're only moderately interested in literature, it's still excellent for browsing.

The full text is attractively displayed on stylish backdrops. Start the program, and the play is acted out in audio, so you can listen and read along. At any point, you can pause and spin off to get the meaning of hypertext words or read flagged notes on the dialogue.

While the play is in progress, pictures appear showing the characters who are speaking; nine of the most poignant scenes are

presented as video from a BBC TV production of *Romeo and Juliet* with such greats as John Gielgud. Although nine clips may seem inadequate, each one lasts for about five minutes and video quality is reasonable.

"Nine of the most poignant scenes are presented as video from a BBC TV production."

Beyond the play itself, there's an array of useful and concise supporting material. You can check out critical opinions, from Robert Greene's 1592 attack on Shakespeare right up to David Bevington's 1994 view.

In the performance section you can read about actors, sets and costumes, and find out about musical representations like Tchaikovsky's ballet or Bernstein's adaptation, *West Side Story*. You can explore the poetic techniques, or refer to notes and analysis of themes like love, death and family.

There are two knocks. One is slow load times. The other is that sometimes you can't get directly to sections of the play mentioned in the supplementary screens.

Overall, however, this disc is the most lavish and captivating of those we've looked at here. It's designed for anyone to use and is easy to browse. *Romeo and Juliet* strikes a good balance between comprehensive content and interesting multimedia features.

Very good



See also

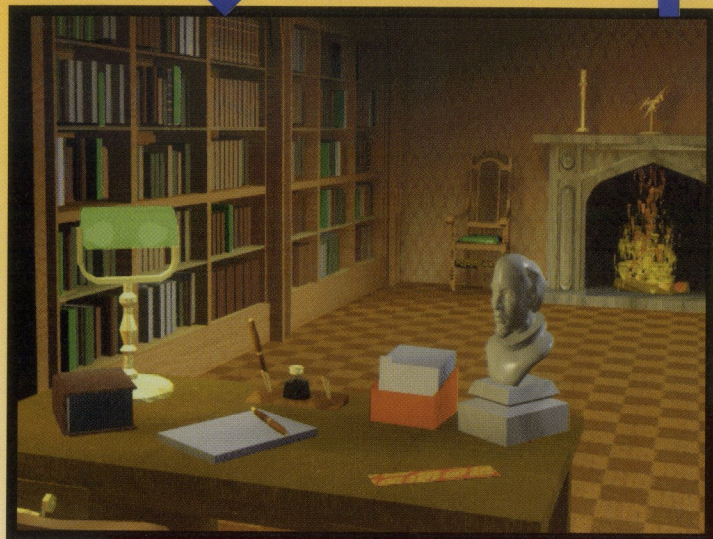
The feature on Attica's Shakespeare discs - p21.

Information

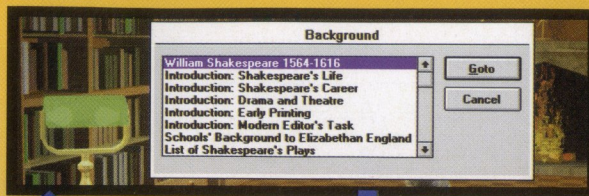
Romeo and Juliet is the result of a joint venture between Attica Cybernetics, BBC Education and HarperCollins. It runs in Windows and costs £57.50. A version which includes notes for teachers is also available at £88. *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the same format are in production at the moment. For more information contact Attica (☎ 01865 791346).

William Shakespeare

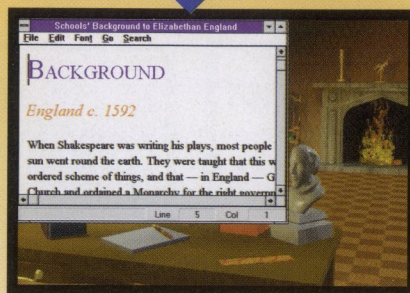
Text, text and more text is what you get with Andromeda Interactive's William Shakespeare: The Complete Works. Here's a couple of ways of sifting through it all...



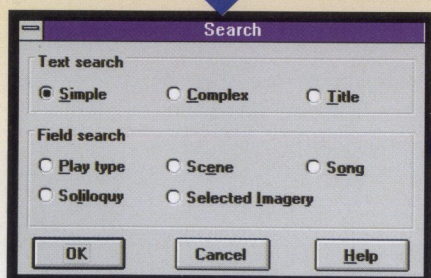
If you don't fancy clicking the function buttons across the top of the screen, the objects in this rendered personal library offer the key to the various tasks you can put this disc to.



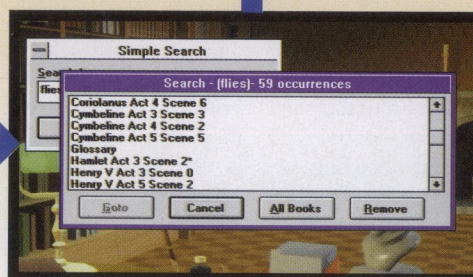
Click on the bust of Shakespeare, and you're offered a series of text files to explore, telling you all about the man and the context within which he worked. These include a background on Elizabethan England.



You'll then find out how many times Shakespeare used the word you've typed, and in what passages he used it. In this case, he used the word 'flies' 59 times.



To perform a search, you select the file card box on the desk. You'll then be able to choose from the eight search options available. Type the word you're interested in and away you go.



William Shakespeare: The Complete Works

It's not flashy, and it doesn't pretend to be multimedia, but if you want a disc for serious academic study of Shakespeare's work, this is the one. Andromeda, rather than providing memory-consuming animations, music and so forth, takes a strictly content-based approach.

Concentrating solely on text, *William Shakespeare: The Complete Works* can give you instant access to any part of Shakespeare's work. This is partly because of its powerful search facility.

So, if you're researching a theme, any theme, just type in a word and you'll know immediately exactly how many times Shakespeare used that word. For instance, he used the word 'fire'

209 times, 'battle' 106 times 'Heaven' 14 times and 'Hell' a whopping 141 times.

More complex searches are also possible, so you can look for phrases, metaphors, titles, songs and play types as well. If you're just

"It's not flashy... but if you want a disc for serious academic study of Shakespeare's work, this is the one."

out to read or quote from a particular play or poem, you can jump straight to any part of whatever work you need, mark pages for future reference and even cut text to the program's built-in word processor.

Reading the play, you can click on a word, find how often and where else it was used. It makes no sense, however, that clicking a word doesn't take you to its meaning in the glossary, whereas from the glossary you can get to any usage of the word.

Also available from the background section are text files covering topics like Shakespeare's life and career, a background to Elizabethan England, and details on drama and the theatre.

Of course, all these features are pretty uninteresting unless you're an ardent student of Shakespeare. It's not a fun disc, it's not for beginners, but it is very utilitarian. *William Shakespeare: The Complete Works* is probably the disc we'd call the scholar's choice.

Pretty good



Information

William Shakespeare: The Complete Works runs in Windows and is supplied by Andromeda Interactive (☎ 01235 529595). It costs £34.99 (£24.99 to schools).

Continued overleaf ➤

See also

Singalong-a-Shakespeare? Well, no, not quite – but karaoke is just one of the alternative ways of presenting some of the Bard's greatest hits on CD-ROM.



▲ That's me, playing the tormented soul, Macbeth, after committing a most heinous crime.

◀ From previous page

Karaoke Macbeth

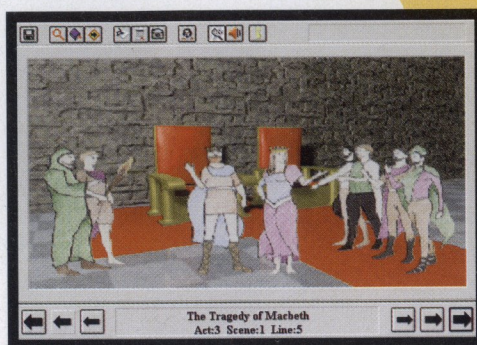
Let's face it, *Karaoke Macbeth* is a bit of a dodgy name for a Shakespeare disc. After all, what on earth does the drunken bawling of pop songs in noisy pubs have to do with the most important figure in English literary and theatrical history?

Fortunately, not a lot. *Karaoke Shakespeare* is a surprisingly useful disc. The karaoke label derives from the fact that you choose a character whose lines you read while the computer supplies the rest of the dialogue. Any number of people can take part, each reading the lines of his or her own character.

This would probably work quite well with groups of pupils who could do a karaoke version of the play among themselves to make learning it more interesting. It also seems a great way for amateur thespians to learn their lines.

Scenes are linked by short, rendered animations which are meant to give participants an idea of the various settings in the play. These are all right, but nothing special, and at least they give you a break, perhaps to wet your whistle before your next round of reading.

What's more, there are text handling facilities that let you search for a specific word or phrase or to mark a section for later reference. You can read or listen to notes which give you a little insight into what's going on and explain the influence of each section of the play.



▲ The rendered sets look fine, but these strangely drawn characters might put you off a little.

But at this price, the disc lacks smoothness and really needs more multimedia extras to make it worthwhile. If you fancy doing *Macbeth* karaoke style, however, it's easy to use and fast, and should meet your requirements.

Karaoke Macbeth is available from Beaufort Publications (☎ 01705 291866) for £49.95. It runs in Windows, and there are also karaoke versions of *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Average



A Literary CD Guide to Shakespeare

With Shakespeare's most important works, plus sections on the Shakespearean stage and the Bard himself, *A Literary CD Guide*



▲ The opening screen gives you the options to find out about Shakespeare's life in Stratford, go to a reference section containing the plays, or listen to some sound clips from performances.

to *Shakespeare* boasts among its main features a key word search index.

This enables you to find passages related to a theme. Enter the word 'parasites' and up pop eight passages from plays like *King Lear* and *Titus Andronicus*. This might be of some use to students, but since you're restricted to key words, you can't just type a word and find its every occurrence in Shakespeare's works.

Other sections of the disc likewise lack application. There are text files of seven plays, plus a few poems and the sonnets. Beyond that, QADS has appended a slide show on Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon. You control the slides and a female narrator dryly relates the details.

Nearly redeeming the disc is a chapter on the Shakespearean stage which gives you the chance to hear excerpts from a variety of plays and poems read by actors.

The trouble with *A Literary CD Guide to Shakespeare* is that none of the sections is linked. It's nowhere near integrated enough to be labelled 'multimedia'. A network utility that lets teachers send questions to students' consoles, and students to reply, might make this disc worthwhile for educational institutions, but otherwise it's not much fun.

Information: *A Literary CD Guide to Shakespeare* is sold by QADS Multimedia for £35. It runs in Windows. QADS ☎ 01477 544148

Flawed



▲ Every year thousands of tourists visit Shakespeare's home in Stratford-upon-Avon and every day hundreds of them go to Anne Hathaway's cottage.

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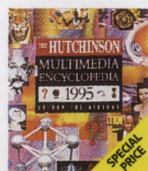
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Memory...

For the novice, PC memory may seem rather complex. **Andy Butcher** explains how anyone can master the basics without having to become a technical genius.



There are few things more frustrating than having just forked out a large chunk of your hard-earned cash on a hot new game for your PC, only to install it and be told that you don't have enough free memory to run it.

So, we're here to explain the basics of PC memory management and show you how to optimise the memory you have available. And, while there's no guarantee that this will allow you to run every DOS program you own straight off, it should certainly help with the great majority.

First of all, it's useful to understand how PC memory is organised. For several historical reasons PCs divide up the total RAM (Random Access Memory) that they have available into different types of memory, and it's this that often causes the problems.

Conventional memory (also referred to as base memory) starts at 0k and ends at 640k. This is where most DOS programs run, and not having enough free conventional memory is the most common memory problem you'll encounter.

Upper memory starts at the end of conventional memory, and runs through to the end of the first megabyte (1024k). This area is set

aside for the use of the PC's hardware, and cannot normally be used by programs. However, few PCs use all of this space, and there are ways for you to make use of the free areas.

Next comes the High Memory Area (HMA), which takes up the first 64k of the next megabyte. Beyond this, the PC regards the rest of the RAM available as either Extended

memory (also referred to as XMS) or Expanded memory (EMS). Different programs require one or the other, so this can also cause problems.

"PCs divide up the total RAM they have available into different types of memory, and it's this that often causes the problems."

When your PC starts up, it automatically follows the instructions in two files, the CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT. Both of these are lists of commands – the CONFIG.SYS contains instructions that can only be carried out during start-up, whereas the AUTOEXEC.BAT is made up of commands that you could perform at any time, but are common enough that you'll want them loaded every time you use your PC.

The essence of optimising your memory lies in modifying these two system files – they define what kind of memory you have available, and the programs they load take up memory of their own.

Before starting any modifications to your system files, it's vital to create back ups. From the C:\> prompt type:

```
COPY CONFIG.SYS CONFIG.BAK
```

and hit return, then

```
COPY AUTOEXEC.BAT AUTOEXEC.BAK
```

and hit return.

Then, if you have any problems later on you can return to your original configuration by typing the reverse (once more, from the C:\> prompt):

```
COPY CONFIG.BAK CONFIG.SYS
```

and enter, then

```
COPY AUTOEXEC.BAK AUTOEXEC.BAT
```

and enter.

If your machine won't even boot up with the new system files, restart your computer and hold down F5 while it starts. When the prompt appears, enter the commands above.

It's also a good idea to see how much and what kind of memory you currently have available. To do this, type:

```
MEM
```

and hit return.

You'll see a screen like this:

C:\>mem			
Memory Type	Total	Used	Free
Conventional	640K	56K	584K
Upper	91K	89K	2K
Reserved	384K	384K	0K
Extended (XMS)*	7,977K	2,533K	4,544K
Total memory	8,192K	3,062K	5,130K
Total under 1 MB	731K	145K	586K
Total Expanded (EMS)		7,480K (7,667,712 bytes)	
Free Expanded (EMS)*		4,760K (4,882,432 bytes)	
* EMMS86 is using XMS memory to simulate EMS memory as used			
Free EMS memory may change as free XMS memory changes.			
Largest executable program size		584K (598,224 bytes)	
Largest free upper memory block		1K (1,368 bytes)	
MS-DOS is resident in the high memory area.			

are you getting enough?

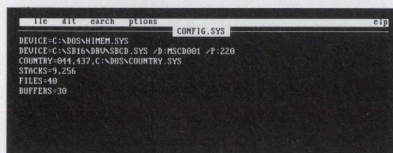
The important things here are the largest executable program size, which shows how much free conventional memory you have, and the free EMS or XMS. If your screen doesn't mention expanded memory, you don't have any available.

To modify the CONFIG.SYS type:

EDIT CONFIG.SYS

and hit return.

You'll see a screen like this:

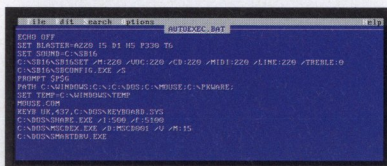


To modify your AUTOEXEC.BAT,
type:

EDIT AUTOEXEC.BAT

and hit return.

You'll see a screen like this:



Both of these files are lists of commands, one per line. Whenever you change either of these files you should save them before exiting (use the FILE menu), and must then

restart your machine for the alterations to take effect.

The previous screens show poorly optimised system files. They result in only 420k of free conventional memory, which is less than most DOS applications need. You can free up conventional memory in two ways – by removing drivers you don't need, or by loading drivers into upper memory.

To prevent a driver from loading, add the letters REM and a space to the start of the line. If you're not sure whether you need a command, add a REM, save, exit and restart your

Continued overleaf ►

CleanSweep for Windows Version 1.0

Because of the nature of the Windows operating system, programs that run under it tend to share various files, and when being installed they place files in various directories in different areas of your system. This means that unless the application includes an 'uninstall' option, it's hard to get rid of all its files when you don't want to use it any more. Deleting the main directory will normally get the majority of them, but there are almost bound to be others scattered around.

CleanSweep from Quarterdeck is a utility designed to uninstall Windows programs. It keeps your hard disk clean and tidy by getting rid of programs and files that you don't need. By working out which files are used by programs you use, it can completely uninstall a program, get rid of unused files, scan for duplicates and so on.

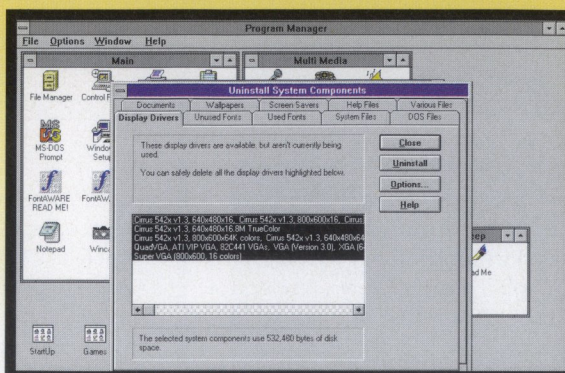
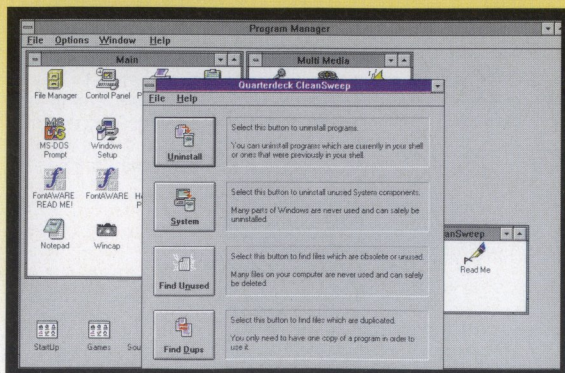
CleanSweep is very easy to install and use. Using the normal Windows point and click interface, it guides you

through the various options quickly and simply. It's also remarkably safe to use – by default it compresses and backs up anything you delete. That way, if you realise that you actually needed something that you've wiped off your hard drive you can retrieve it at a later date. Of course, if you're absolutely sure you don't need it you can always delete it straight off, but it's normally best to back it up to start with, then delete the backup later.

CleanSweep is one of most useful Windows applications I've ever used. It's small, simple and pretty much a must for anyone who uses Windows a great deal. Best of all, it's not too expensive at £39.95 – you can easily spend a lot more than that on a game.

Best buy

Very good 



◀ **CleanSweep** is controlled from a series of simple screens, each providing clear advice and instructions. If only all Windows programs were so easy to use...

Information

CleanSweep for Windows is published by Quarterdeck UK Limited (☎ 01245 496699) priced £47.

◀ From previous page

computer. If you don't receive any error messages and your programs work, you probably didn't need it. If there are no problems, you can delete the line. If there are problems, remove the REM, save, exit and restart.

To load drivers into upper memory you need a memory management program such as *EMM386.EXE*, which comes with DOS. If it's not present, add the following line immediately after the one containing *HIMEM.SYS*:

```
DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE NOEMS
```

DOS takes up a lot of memory, but by adding the following line after the one containing *EMM386.EXE* you can load part of it into the HMA:

```
DOS=HIGH,UMB
```

Then change any following line that starts with *DEVICE=...* to

```
DEVICEHIGH=...
```

The *CONFIG.SYS* shown above would end up looking like this:

```

CONFIG.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP01.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP02.SYS
DOS=HIGH,UMB
DEVICEHIGH=C:\MSDOS\IBMP03.SYS /P:1220
COUNTRY=044,437,C:\MSDOS\COUNTRY.SYS
STACKS=9,256
FILES=40
BUFFERS=10

```

Please note...

This article assumes that you are using at least a 386 with 2MB of RAM or more and DOS 5 or later. Luckily, just about any PC bought in the last year will have at least this specification or better, so don't worry too much if these numbers don't mean too much to you.

The *AUTOEXEC.BAT* is slightly trickier. Basically, it's a matter of adding the letters *LH* followed by a space to the start of any line that contains a command with a *.EXE*, *.COM* or *.SYS* extension.

If you're not sure about a line, try adding *LH*, save, exit and restart. If you don't receive an error message during boot-up, everything should be fine. Using the example *AUTOEXEC.BAT* above, you'd end up with:

```

AUTOEXEC.BAT
CDOM OFF
SET BLASTER=A220 I5 D1 H5 P330 T5
SET SOUND=C:\SND
C:\MSDOS\IBMP01.SYS /P:220 /ABC:220 /CD:220 /MDI:220 /LINE:220 /TREBLE:0
PROMPT $P$G
PATH C:\WINDOWS\COMMAND\
SET PATH=C:\WINDOWS\COMMAND\
SET PATH=C:\WINDOWS\COMMAND\
SET PATH=C:\WINDOWS\COMMAND\
LH C:\MSDOS\IBMP01.SYS /P:220 /ABC:220 /CD:220 /MDI:220 /LINE:220 /TREBLE:0
LH C:\MSDOS\IBMP02.SYS /P:220 /ABC:220 /CD:220 /MDI:220 /LINE:220 /TREBLE:0
LH C:\MSDOS\IBMP03.SYS /P:220 /ABC:220 /CD:220 /MDI:220 /LINE:220 /TREBLE:0

```

Modifying both the example system files as above and restarting the machine results in 614k of free conventional memory, a gain of nearly 200k and more than enough for just about every DOS game and application around:

```

CONFIG.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP01.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP02.SYS
DOS=HIGH,UMB
DEVICEHIGH=C:\MSDOS\IBMP03.SYS /P:1220
COUNTRY=044,437,C:\MSDOS\COUNTRY.SYS
STACKS=9,256
FILES=40
BUFFERS=10

```

The changes detailed above give you XMS (extended) memory. If you find that you require EMS (expanded) memory, simply change the *NOEMS* in the *EMM386.EXE* line to *RAM*, like this:

```

CONFIG.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP01.SYS
DEVICE=C:\MSDOS\IBMP02.SYS
DOS=HIGH,UMB
DEVICEHIGH=C:\MSDOS\IBMP03.SYS /P:1220 /ABC:220 /CD:220 /MDI:220 /LINE:220 /TREBLE:0
COUNTRY=044,437,C:\MSDOS\COUNTRY.SYS
STACKS=9,256
FILES=40
BUFFERS=10

```

You may find that this results in a slightly different amount of free conventional memory, but it should still be more than enough.

Finally, if you have DOS 6.0 or later, you can also try running a DOS program called *MEMMAKER*, which tries to free more conventional memory by changing the order of the commands in your system files. Make the changes explained above, restart your machine and from the *C:\>* prompt type:

MEMMAKER and hit return.

Follow the instructions on screen – if you have any problems or need more help, consult your DOS manual.

End ■

Quarterdeck Expanded Memory Manager Version 7.5

Quarterdeck Expanded Memory Manager (QEMM) is a software package that optimises your PC's memory. Rather than having to modify your system files yourself, or use the rather limited *MEMMAKER* program that comes with DOS 6.0 and later, *QEMM* does the work for you. In addition, by using a number of clever techniques, it can actually give you far more memory than either of the more traditional methods.

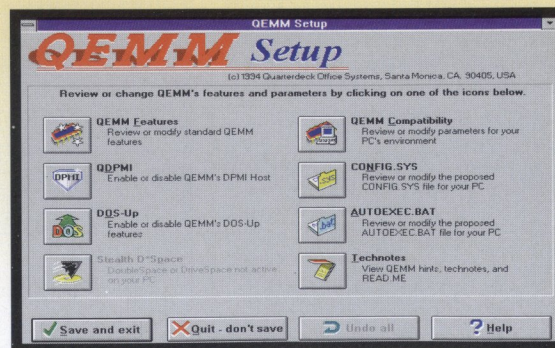
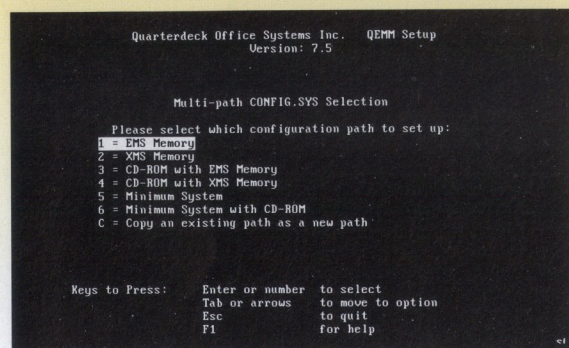
The package, consisting of a couple of floppy disks and manuals, is easy to use. Installation and optimisation can be performed from Windows or DOS, and has an 'Express Option' for those who aren't technical experts. The whole process, which requires little more than putting the disks in the drive and hitting return, takes less than 6 minutes.

It also performs remarkably well. On three separate PCs *QEMM* was capable of freeing up 634k of base memory (and remember, a PC only has 640k). In addition, the program

automatically allocates either EMS or XMS memory to applications as and when they need them. In short, it's designed to end your memory problems forever.

QEMM is very slick and polished. It's easy to use and does its job well, with a minimum amount of fuss. There are occasional conflicts, but most of these are resolved with the help of the manual. My only reservations lie in its value. At £79.95 *QEMM 7.5* represents a serious outlay for something that you can do without quite happily. Additionally, the advent of Windows 95 later this year should (in theory) make it obsolete. So, if you're financially well off and a complete PC novice, *QEMM* is probably for you. Otherwise, think long and hard about what else you could spend the money on.

Average



◀ *QEMM* can be installed and set up from either DOS or Windows, and is just as simple to use in either. But is there any point to it?

Information

Quarterdeck Expanded Memory Manager is published by Quarterdeck UK Limited (☎ 01245 496699) priced £94.

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You used to need a Silicon Graphics workstation and enough spare cash to buy a house to get the best in 3D modelling software. But as **Paul Pettengale** discovers, that's no longer the case.

The most powerful program of its kind, *3D Studio* has become the industry standard for photo-realistic 3D modelling and animation.

The number of software developers that use it is staggering. It's even taught on art and design courses – but you can create stunning computerised illustration and animation with the minimum of artistic understanding, and the most simple grasp of computers.

3D Studio Release 4 brings a whole new range of plug-in



modules for the base program which makes animation even simpler. You create objects – either simple spheres and cuboids, or more complex shapes – place them in a three dimensional space, and then coat them with an appropriate texture or surface.

You could, for example, create a basic cube and apply a bitmap picture that you've created in an art package to each face – the various sides of a dice, say. Or you could take a picture of the Earth, and wrap it around a sphere to make a globe. A complex scene is made up of a lot of these objects, each with it's own special attributes and textures.

You can incorporate lighting of various types into the scene – so you can have spotlights pointing at objects of interest, or you can place

an omni-directional light in the position of a virtual sun, to make the scene look realistic. Finally, you need to position a camera or viewpoint through which you can view the 3D world you've created. Then the computer can take the scene as it appears through the usual operation of the program (a wire mesh of

shapes and objects) and render it with all of the textures in place and lighting in effect.

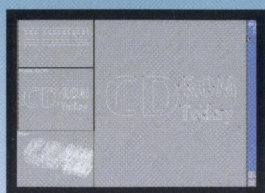
Marvellous!

The end result is a static image of photo-realistic quality, which, if created with skill, can appear indistinguishable from real-life.

The process, in complex scenes at least, is a lengthy one. The interface breaks scene creation into five steps, each with its own screen – this makes working with the program simpler, but it can take time since you're jumping from one stage to



Enter the third dimension with CD-



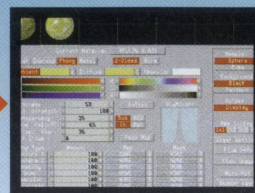
▲ To make a 3D logo, you create text in the 2D Shaper, then import it into the 3D loftter. Now drag out the two-dimensional image along a lofting path, transforming it into an object with some depth. To view the image and manipulate it further, you have to switch to the 3D Editor module.



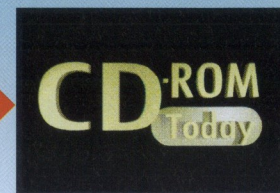
▲ You won't actually be able to see the object unless you include a camera through which a field of vision can be attained, and some lights to illuminate it. Here you have a couple of spotlights and an omni-directional light high-up above the text-object.



▲ The logo wouldn't be complete without the lozenge behind the word Today. You create it in the same way as the text and then drop it into place, scaling it to the correct proportions. You also need to position the camera to get the image lined up correctly in the bottom-right view port.



▲ At the moment the text and lozenge lack a defined material, so let's switch into the Materials Editor and use a gold material for the text and a yellow glass material for the other bit. When that's done, you can switch back into the 3D Editor to assign the materials to the objects.



▲ It's a good idea to do a quick test render of the scene as it stands. This takes 3D Studio about a minute, which is incredibly quick compared to the majority of similar packages. As you can see, it looks okay, but it's a bit dull, so the next step is to assign a bitmap image as a background.

Release 4

the next as you compile and texture each object in your scene.

If you add animation to your scene – moving objects, lights and even the camera to create small computerised movies such as those that kick off CD-ROM games such as *Magic Carpet* and *Creature Shock* – the process becomes

proportionately more involved, and it can quite easily take you a week of solid work to create an animation that's 30 seconds long.

When you become more proficient with *3D Studio*, you'll discover that there are short-cuts that you can use to speed the creation of large scenes along, but becoming a *3DS* wizz takes time – a good year of using it at least. But the quality of the results compensates for the amount of time it takes to learn to use *3D Studio* effectively – you'd be surprised how

many TV ads are created with *3DS*, many looking as if they've been done on systems which cost far more than a high-end PC and two and a half grand's worth of software.

If you save your animations out to a hard drive or CD-ROM, you never get the full benefit of *3D Studio*, because of the speed of playback.

But *3DS* enables you to output to special frame-by-frame video recorders, where 30 frames per second at a more or less unlimited resolution is possible. When you use kits such

as this, *3DS* really comes into its own as an animation tool.

But even with a simple PC setup – a DX2/66 with 16Mb of RAM and a reasonably fast 500Mb hard drive – the results attainable with *3DS* are of the most professional standard. Yes, that might sound like a monster PC

“...you can create stunning computerised illustration and animation with the minimum of artistic understanding...”

Information

3D Studio Release 4 is published by Autodesk (☎ 01483 303322) and costs £2,644.

to some, but consider this: a PC with that spec costs less than *3D Studio* itself, so it's not unreasonable to expect that kind of processing power if you're serious about creative professional 3D graphics.

We mentioned *Release 4* – the latest version of *3DS* and the plug-in capabilities it has. *3D Studio* is unique as a PC-based rendering package because you can add extra tools and utilities to it for achieving special effects. You can, for example, buy add-ons which create realistic smoke scenes, or fire, or rippling water. Rather than a complete overhaul of the *3DS* program (as *Release 3* was to *Release 2*), *Release 4* is a collection of these add-on programs, six of them in fact, which for the most part aid the speed and ease of complex animation routines.

The most significant is an effect called inverse kinematics, a wordy way of describing how objects in a chain are linked and how they move in relation to each other. Say you wanted to move a finger from waist height so that it touched a figure's nose... with *Release 3* you would have to move each part of the arm, hand and finger in turn, which is a lengthy process. With *Release 4* you can select the finger, drag it up to the nose, and each part of the arm will move automatically in direct relation with the finger. It sounds simple, but inverse kinematics is a powerful animation tool that only used to be found with rendering systems costing tens of thousands of pounds.

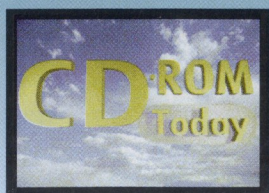
Initially difficult to learn and get to grips with, *3D Studio* may seem to the beginner like a computing nightmare come true. But it's a wondrous piece of software loved across the computing industry for the graphical power it bestows upon the user. Its diversity and extraordinary upgradability make it ideal for use in a professional environment where it's potentially destructive to create graphics which look just like

everyone else's. Even though it still runs under DOS, it has to be acknowledged as one of the most technically advanced pieces of software available for the PC.

Excellent



ROM Today...



▲ Right, let's play it safe by using a photograph of some clouds in the background – this one is from the World Creating Toolkit CD-ROM which comes as part of the *3D Studio* package. The scene now looks much more interesting, and has a bit more depth to it.

▲ Now, just for fun, let's add a couple of eyes looking down on the logo – these are simple spheres with capping glass lenses, with a texture map of an iris and pupil applied to them. The texture map comes with the *3DS* package (there are hundreds of sample maps on the CD-ROM).

▲ A final render – this one takes about a minute and a half – and the final scene is complete. The colour palette has been reduced to 256 colours, but the original was rendered in full colour for spot-on definition. The time it took to complete the whole scene? About twenty minutes from beginning to end.

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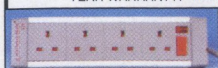
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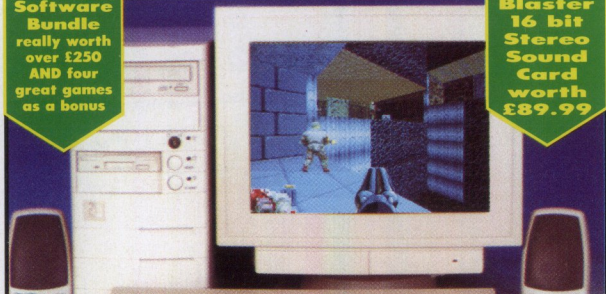
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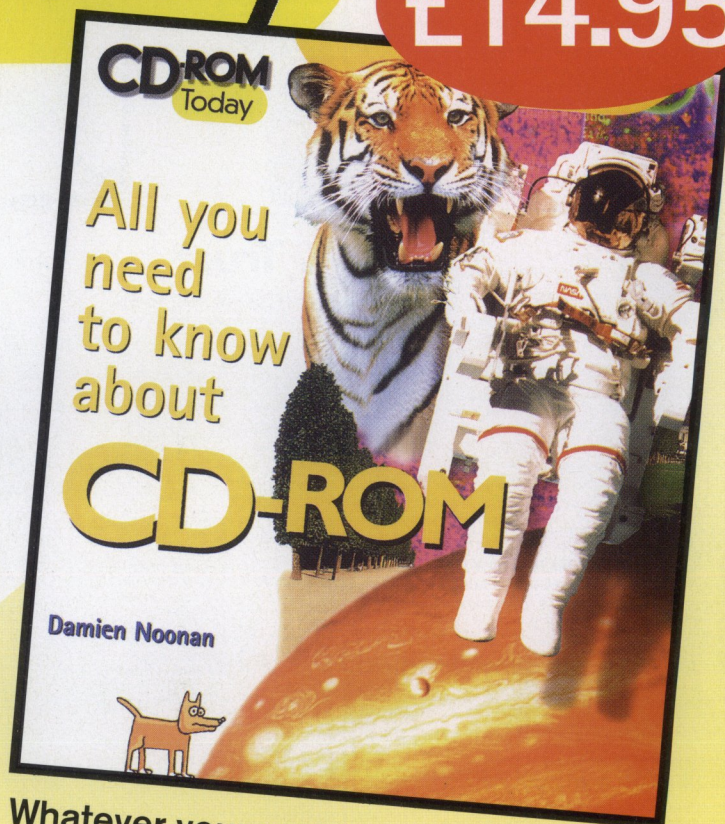
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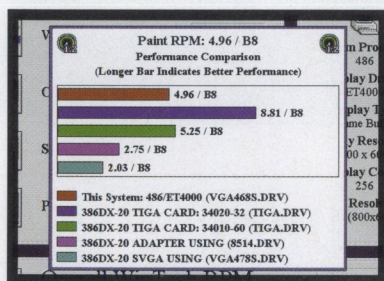
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Help!

*What's the difference between an ordinary sound card and a wave table? No, it's not a riddle – it's just one of the questions that **Steve Patient** answers this month...*



▲ Windows on a 50MHz 486 PC with SVGA can be slower than on a 20MHz 386 with an accelerator card.

Graphic speed

I've had my PC's motherboard upgraded to a 66MHz 486DX2 from a 386, but while Windows runs faster, it's nothing like as fast as it is on my friend's new 66MHz PC. Why not?

J Hardy,
Portsmouth

In order of effectiveness, the PC features that make Windows go faster – after fitting a faster processor – are as follows. First, a Windows graphics accelerator card. Windows spends more than half its life drawing on the screen, and a graphics accelerator can speed this up by a factor of five. Next, a fast hard disk. Thirdly, more memory. Windows runs faster with 8Mb of RAM than 4Mb – whatever Microsoft claims.

You can buy a good graphics accelerator card for around £100. A new 300Mb hard drive costs about the same, as does an upgrade from 4Mb to 8Mb of RAM.

DOS stuff

I recently bought an educational program for my children that says it needs DOS with 640k before it will run. I've



run the Mem utility that comes with DOS and it says I have 570k free. How can I get the 640k this program wants?

L Jameson,
London

Don't worry, you can't get 640k free under DOS. The practical limit with DOS 6 is about 612k, but few programs need this much.

The instructions mean you need 640k installed, which everyone has these days. Try running it, and if it says there isn't enough memory, try running Memmaker – it comes with DOS 6 – to see if it can gain you a little more.

If the program runs from the hard disk, try making up a boot disk with a Config.sys along the following lines:
device=c:\windows\himem.sys
Device=c:\windows\emm386.exe ram dos=high, umb

This gives you expanded memory and access to upper memory. As it stands, you should have over 590k. If you need to add any other drivers – mouse drivers for example – in config.sys, use the devicehigh command. If you have to add any using Autoexec.bat, use the loadhigh command. These commands try to load programs above the 640k waterline.

For more information, see our Memory feature on page 68.

▲ Downloading images and files from a BBS or the Internet requires the fastest connection you can get.

If you plan to run your sound card through your hi-fi, or hi-fi speakers, then a wave table card can sound better, but only for MIDI style music. Windows WAV sound files, and AVI movie clips will sound the same.

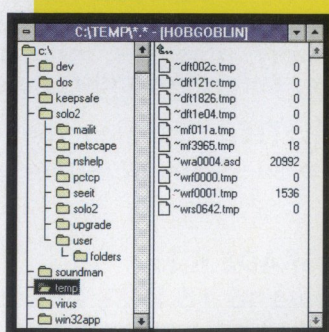
New Modem

I'm currently running a 2,400bps modem and, having just taken out a subscription to Demon to get on to the Internet, realise I need something a lot faster – but how much faster?

F Waterson,
Brighton

Demon currently runs at a maximum of 14,400bps, but is upgrading to 28,800 even as we speak. The sensible option is to buy the fastest. You can buy a 28,800bps – V34 – modem for £230. If cash is tight, a 14,400bps modem, at under £100, is pretty good. Before you buy, think about how long it will take you to give the difference to BT in telephone time charges. Don't even consider a 9,600bps modem – they don't have built in compression which makes them a lot slower than you might think compared to a 14,400bps modem.

End ■



▲ Get all those temporary files off your hard disk and into RAM for greater speed under Windows.

RAMdisk tip

The usual advice is never to use a RAMdisk with Windows, as it consumes memory that Windows can use more efficiently. But there is one case where a RAMdisk makes sense. If you have lots of RAM, 16Mb or more, a RAMdisk can speed up applications and printing.

Set up a 2Mb RAMdisk (refer to your DOS manual or help system for precise instructions) and make it your temporary directory with the temp= line in autoexec.bat. Print Manager will use it to spool print files and programs will use it to create temporary files – both of which avoid using the hard disk.

Wave table sound

What's the difference between an ordinary sound card and a wave table sound card? Does it really sound that much better?

M Gann,
Cardiff

If you ran your hi-fi through a pair of two inch speakers it wouldn't make any difference whether you'd paid £100 or a £1,000 for it – the speakers would swamp all other differences.

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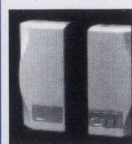
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Olivetti PCS 42P S2/50

The Italians might know a thing or two about style, but there's a lot more to a multimedia PC than attractively designed casing.

Simon Williams takes the Olivetti PCS out of the stables and puts it through its paces to see if it's as good as it looks.



In true Italian fashion, Olivetti has always succeeded in styling its PCs differently from UK and US offerings. It now has a range of leisure PCs, and the PCS 42P S2/50 is at the budget end of the range. This PC continues the design tradition with its heavily latticed and louvred front panel. It has room for only two drives – a double-speed CD-ROM drive is fitted above the standard 3.5-inch floppy drive. The vertical panel which looks as though it might make way for a second floppy is a dummy.

Two large rotary clips at the sides hold the case top on, and inside there's room for two VL-Bus expansion cards as well as the 16-bit Sound Blaster card. This card runs into a pair of mediocre Creative Labs speakers, which are supplied without a power supply for their built-in amplifiers. You have to rely on the 4W per channel produced by the sound card. This is usually loud enough, as some of the sound from the speakers is audibly distorted.

Unfortunately, there is only 4Mb of main memory fitted to the PCS as



▲ The unusual design of the PCS 42P S2/50 shouldn't put you off what is a sound, well engineered leisure PC with better than average expansion potential.

standard, so you'll be running into memory problems with some multimedia titles. The Cirrus Logic video adaptor, built into the machine's main board, provides the three main PC screen resolutions of 640 by 480, 800 by 600 and 1024 by 768, and can show 640 by 480 in 24-bit TrueColour. The highest resolution display shows some shimmer, though, indicating that the vertical refresh rate has dropped to around 60Hz. Top quality monitors can manage a flicker-free 72Hz, but the flicker here is less pronounced than most and other aspects of the display are good. The design is rather bare and bulgy, though, with the screen looking as if it's about to burst out of its case.

Olivetti's latest keyboards are compact, while still having a good feel to them, and this is one unit you should find comfortable for any

home-based typing needs. In contrast, the mouse is small and provides little palm support.

For £899, plus VAT, the PCS is well provided with software. To start with there's *Works for Windows*, the best-selling integrated suite, which is well up to most leisure and some small business needs. Added to this are *Lotus Organizer*, *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* and *The Animals*, an educational title based on the work of San Diego Zoo. Finally, there's the CD-ROM version of the rather good adventure game, *Return to Zork*.

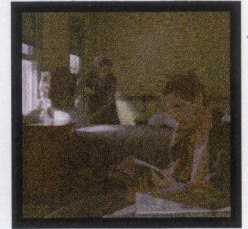
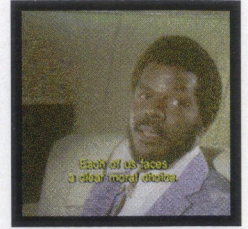
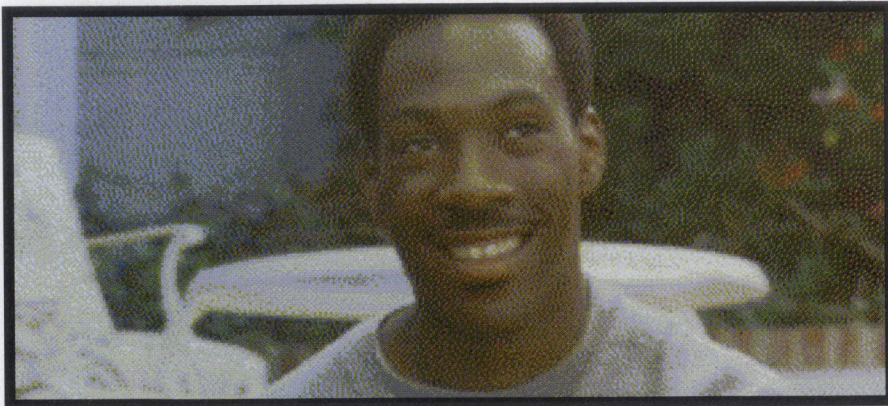
Although the PCS 42P S2/50 is fairly low-powered, with limited memory, it suffers less than some machines in the same price bracket and is a good way in to multimedia.

Information

Model: PCS 42P S2/50
Supplier: Olivetti
(☎ 0181 785 6666)
Price: £1056
Processor: i486SX2
Speed: 50MHz
Memory: 4Mb
Colours: 24-bit at 640 by 480
Hard drive: 206Mb
CD-ROM: Creative Labs/
Panasonic double speed
Sound card: Creative Labs
Sound Blaster 16

Good





Movie Master 24

At last, the movie meets the machine at full-screen and in full colour with the first 24-bit MPEG decompression board for the PC.

Simon Williams buys his ticket and settles down to watch...



With video becoming an increasingly important element in multimedia, the industry is struggling to find a video format that offers a high level of compression with a decent level of playback quality. Video for Windows doesn't quite get there, with its jerk-o-vision quality and tiny screen size, so other compression routines have been considered – and MPEG seems to be the leader in the field.

MPEG is used in the creation of Video CD titles – basically films on CD – and a even a number of multimedia CD-ROMs. The only problem is that special hardware has to be employed to decompress the data. Or, at least, that's the case for the next year or so before high-quality software decompression becomes available.

The Movie Master 24 is an MPEG expansion card that plugs into one of your PC's spare 16-bit slots, coupling itself to your machine's video card via the board's video feature connector (an internal connection, rather than an external one through the ordinary VGA output) sending out the combined



Information

Model: Movie Master 24
Distributor: Ace Multimedia (☎ 01952 293333)
Price: £386.50
Colour depth: 24-bit
On board memory: 2Mb
Compatibility: MPEG, Video CD, CDi (with appropriate CD-ROM drives)

► *The Accused* – Jodie Foster, just before the haircut, in the blockbuster movie that tackled the unsavoury subject of gang rape. Powerful stuff.

data to your monitor screen. A simple line-out jack provides sound from the movie files you watch, and can be piped through a lead directly to your external speakers or routed back through your sound card, providing you have one.

Installation is simple – a five minute job inside the back of your PC and then a couple of minutes loading up the driver software (which comes in both DOS and Windows flavours).

Unlike every other MPEG board to appear so far, the Movie Master 24 can output data to the monitor in 24-bits, or, put simplistically, in 16 million colours (ample, given that the human eye can perceive only an estimated 9 million). Other boards, such as the RealMagic from Sigma Designs can only send out

images in 32,000 colours, and there's a noticeable difference in the quality – not as noticeable as you may think, but certainly a good enough gain to increase the picture quality from a washed-out murkiness to a more vivid, and acceptable level.

The Movie Master 24 is the best MPEG card, in terms of quality, that's available at the moment, but it's not perfect. The most significant problem is the way it accepts and then overlays data from the PC's graphics card. Most graphics cards, can output in 24-bits, which is essential if, for example, you're doing high-end graphics or photo editing. Unfortunately, the internal feature connector, which transfers data from the graphics card to the MPEG decompressor, limits normal graphics to 8-bit data – that's just 256 colours, which is nowhere near enough for the serious PC user. Still, for the price, the quality, the ease of use and the versatility of the Movie Master, it's easily the best card to go for if you want to watch films on your PC.



Very good



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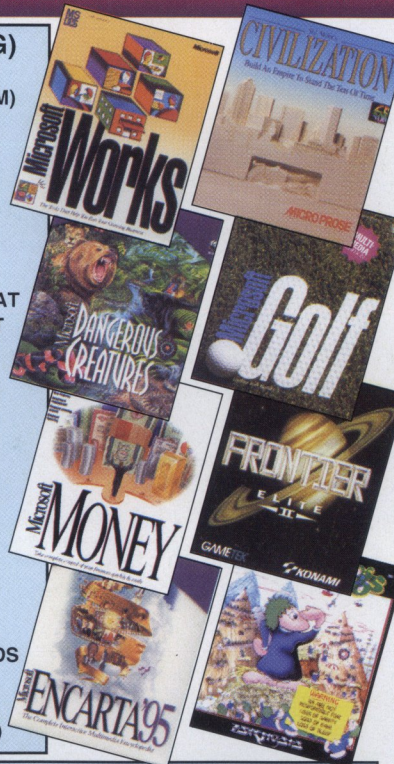
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Miro VIDEO 20TD Live!



Is a Windows accelerator with enhanced digital video playback and an on-board TV tuner too good to be true? **Simon Williams** investigates...



You may not have heard of the German video card manufacturer, Miro, but it claims to be the third largest supplier of high performance cards in Europe, after Diamond and ATI. Miro UK is a new subsidiary which aims to raise the company's profile in this country and one of the key products is the miroVIDEO 20TD live, a Windows accelerator with the added bonus of enhanced digital video playback and an on-board TV tuner. The card is available in two variants, for VL and PCI local buses – the data transfer rate through the standard ISA bus isn't high enough to cope with the video information, so there's no ISA version.

We installed the PCI version of the card in a Gateway Pentium and had no interrupt problems, as the machine comes pre-installed with the Plug and Play system, which sorts these all out transparently. Even so, we had trouble with the sample provided and during the short period we had it we never got it to work satisfactorily. Make sure your

▲ Single-frame video capture in Video Studio 2 is as simple as running the source into the miroVIDEO 20TD live and selecting from a menu.

dealer will take the card back, should it not work in your machine.

The package consists of the card itself, plus two software packages. The more sophisticated of these is *Video Studio 2*, from Ulead, which provides still and video capture, still retouching and video editing, including the ability to add cross-fades and simple special effects. The second program offers live TV display in a window and is ideal if you want to keep in touch with a test match while you work, or catch up on *Neighbours* in your lunch hour.

You'll need an aerial and standard TV-style downline for this function, but the miroVIDEO 20TD live

► The Video Studio Image Editor is a capable retouching program, not that these two need further make-overs.

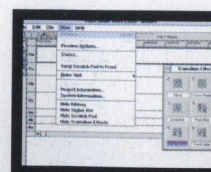


can also take composite and S-Video inputs from video recorders. During the setup of the TV software, the tuner automatically scans all relevant wavebands and picks up all the channels it can find. You can then flick through them quickly and easily under software control.

Capturing stills from TV or video is straightforward, and the high video palette – a minimum of 32K colours is needed – is provided by the card itself, which uses a Tseng Labs W32p accelerator chip. The maximum resolution of playback and capture is 384 by 288 pixels, quite a lot lower than the 625 lines offered by PAL TV.

Video capture isn't totally straightforward – the review software refused to grab any video with the default 4Mb of memory. 8Mb is needed for any serious capture work and you need 5.5Mb of disk space per second for 24-bit capture at 25 frames per second. This card offers a lot and once the new-product wrinkles are ironed out promises to deliver a lot for £345 (plus VAT).

Pretty good ★★☆☆☆



◀ The Video Editor has animated icons showing the various cross-fades and effects on offer. But 4Mb of RAM isn't enough to capture video clips.

Information

Model: VIDEO 20TD live
Supplier: Miro Computer Products
(☎ 01494 510250)
Price: £405.50 (£346.50 for 1Mb VIDEO 10TD live!)
Requirements:
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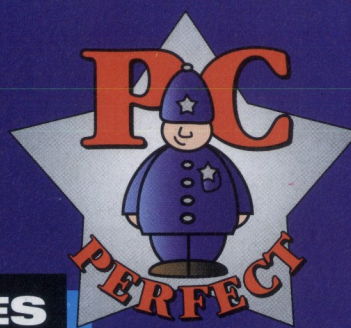
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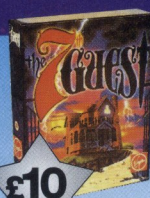
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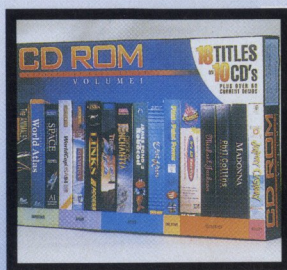
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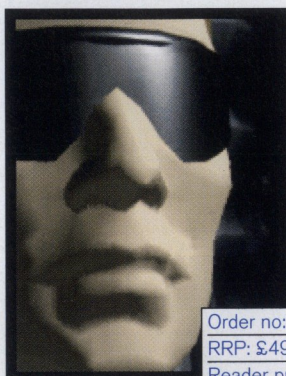
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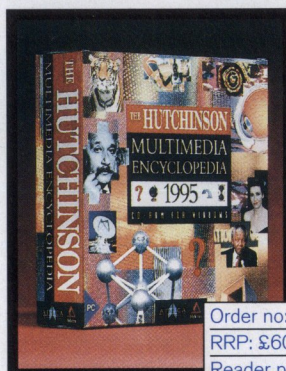
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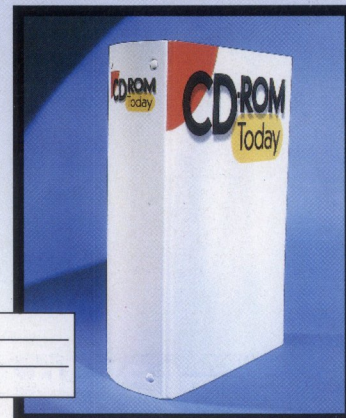
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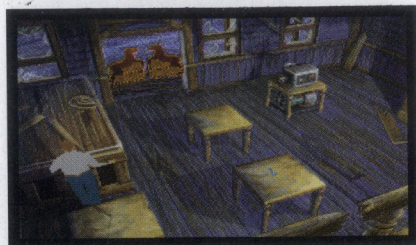
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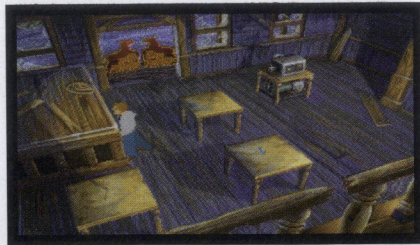
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▲ Escher would be proud of the perspective problems in *Alone in the Dark 3*. Standing to the south of the table, you can peer over it...

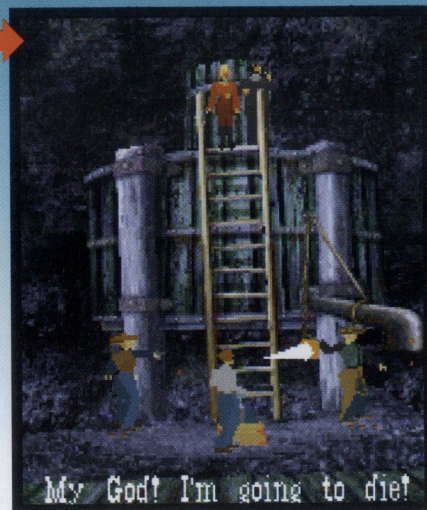


▲ ...but move to the side and poor Eddie's struggling to get it on eye level. Not the most convincing game world you've explored, is it?

Lassie come home.

If you thought the idea of a canine heroine was daft, how about a heroic cougar?

► Edward 'veteran of *Alone in the Dark 2*' Carnby finds himself in rather a sticky situation, an impasse from which no amount of bribery will help him escape.



My God! I'm going to die!

Alone in the dark 3

Information

Alone in the Dark 3 is published by Infogrames (☎ 0171 738 8199) and costs £50. You'll need a 386DX PC to run it, with 4Mb RAM, VGA graphics and a sound card. Even though the game's on CD-ROM, you still need 35Mb hard disk space because the whole game gets copied off for no particular reason. What's the point of the CD, hmmm?

First it was a haunted house, then voodoo pirates – now it's a cowboy ghost town. **Richard Longhurst** heads out West with Infogrames' latest...



Here's a message for you, friend!

▲ Not everyone is out to get you in *Alone 3*. Matey here actually offers some pretty good advice after he hands you the message – ignore him at your peril.

Horrors. Sounds like 'dollars'. At least it does if you're Japanese. And with that tenuous wordplay, Infogrames brings you the third and

final *Alone in the Dark* game, a tale of cowboys, ghosts and intrigue, set on an abandoned film lot in 1920's Hollywood.

Virtually all that's changed since the first game are the story and background graphics, and even they don't show much in the way of imaginative lateral leaps. *Alone 1* had you fighting Lovecraftian monsters in a haunted house, *Alone 2* saw you fighting voodoo pirate monsters in a haunted house and boat, and now you're fighting ghostly cowboys on a haunted film set. It's nothing if not consistent.

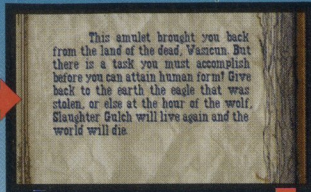
Still, if the guys at Infogrames want to stick to the old maxim 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it', who can blame them? PC gamers have got another



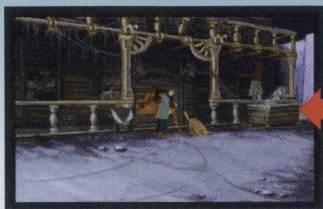
▲ Luckily, a native American witch is there to bring him back to life – except her spell goes wrong and he's reincarnated in feline form.



▲ Not one to complain, Edward (or Felix as he's now known) has time to indulge in a nostalgic campfire sing-song.



▲ Felix is a clever cougar who can read, and is smart enough to make sense of this cryptic message.



◀ And it's on to Slaughter Gulch's main street, where a nasty man turns on Felix and flays him alive. What good's your fancy witchcraft now?



◀ So off he goes, bounding out of the cave with you wondering why all games can't look this good (until Felix gets up close and you see he's got lots of straight lines.)



▲ Sometimes it seems like you're stuck with nowhere to go...



▲ ...but hidden switches can make light work of heavy walls...

opportunity to lap up some more polygonal adventuring, with the game engine of exploring, puzzle solving and fighting as finely tuned as ever. It seems that all Infogrames has had to do is change the oil and top up the petrol to produce another best-selling game.

But what's remained the same in *AITD3* is perhaps just as important as what's changed. The polygon characters have the same fluid animation as they always did (especially when the hero Edward becomes a cougar), but now they're noticeably deficient in the detail department. You could forgive this when *AITD1* appeared in 1992, but there's no excuse now that Pentium PCs and local bus graphics cards are all the rage.

Most annoyingly, the gameplay has retained its schizophrenic split between being alternately hugely entertaining and massively irritating. Right at the start you're confronted by a gunfighter who's impossible to kill (the only way to find this out is by dying repeatedly), and within the next five minutes you come across two more sharp shooters who are equally stubborn in their refusal to bite the dust.

It's one thing to guide players to certain puzzles and parts of the game before letting them loose on other locations, but the way *AITD3* guides you through its own narrative structure is extremely heavy handed. When you've hit an enemy six times and have taken half a dozen slugs yourself, you realise that perhaps you're not on the right path and are forced to find another way. You try running past the villain, but to add insult

to injury, as you draw level with him, you hit an invisible wall and he finishes you off with two shots, no matter how many health points you've got left. Very poor, as Vic 'n' Bob used to say.

It used to be thought that the *Alone* games oozed atmosphere and credibility, but they now pale in comparison with the likes of *System Shock*, which has fear pouring out of every pixel.

In *AITD3* you're supposed to be tip-toeing nervously round a haunted film set, with potential assassins around every turn, but can you peek around a corner and have a look to see who's there? No, you're always at the mercy of the game's once revolutionary but now idiosyncratic viewing angles: one second you're seeing the action from above, the next from the side, the next from below. The switches aren't as painful as in the previous games – for a start you don't get into silly situations where your character falls off the screen in the middle of a fight – but the passage of time and loss of originality makes it less easy to forgive the system's failings.

Alone in the Dark 3 strikes a decent balance between adventure and action, but the passing of time has left an empty game, and rehashing the plot and recycling the gameplay isn't enough to fill the void. While you might be happy to get a third helping of the same school dinner, you're bound to start wondering whether it's time you started bringing packed lunches with your favourite flavour crisps. Or something.

Pretty good ★★★★★



▲ ...to reveal a grand hall packed with weird characters.



▲ Do not adjust your magazine, it's a weird camera angle...



▲ ...ah, that's more like it, a good, honest straight view.

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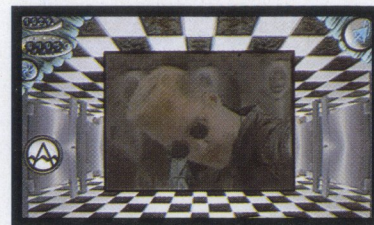
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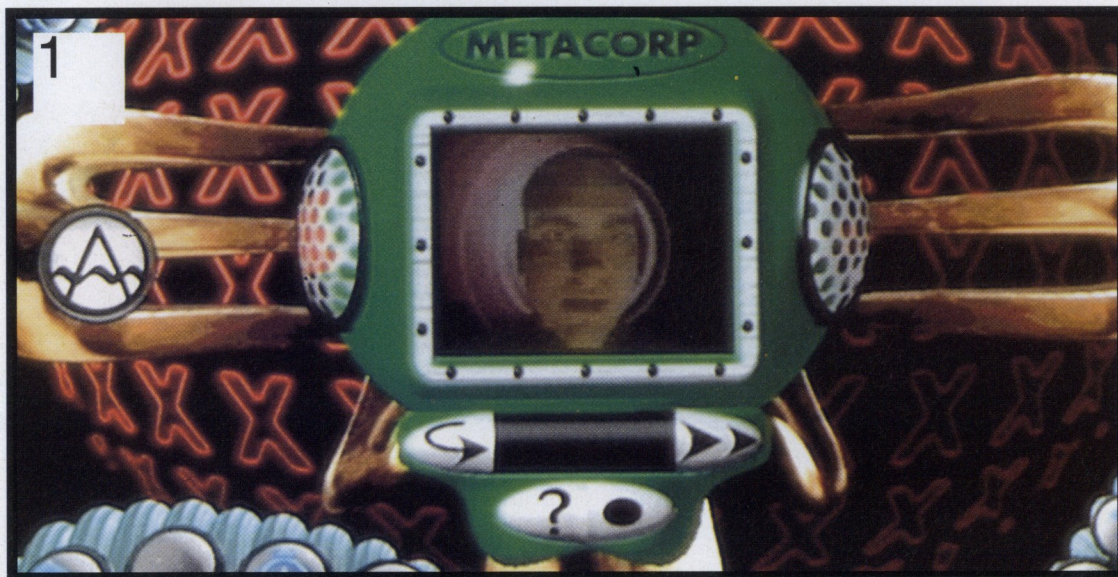
▲ Visit the front desk at Hotel Alexandria and you risk an encounter with the psychotic and hyperactive Security manager.



▲ The future of music television – Richie 7 is a wayward rock star with habits and girlfriends that put his life dangerously close to the edge.

MTV club dead

Music Television and multimedia have conceived a cavorting new video-based caper. **Garrick Webster** gets hip to it...



▲ Here's your personal video mail machine, supplied by Metacorp, the company that Sam works for. And this is a threatening message from the boss.



Information

MTV Club Dead is published by Viacom and sold in the UK through the main high street retailers. There is no recommended retail price, but it should cost under £50.



Sam Frost experienced retro-birth. He popped out of his mother's womb, looked around, then crawled back in again.

If it wasn't for the wicked doctor who hauled him out, there wouldn't be a Sam Frost.

But Sam's apprehension was understandable, because he was born into the future world of MTV, where the hyperactive and the hypercool party in pleasure pods and are addicted to virtual reality (known as V). In *MTV Club Dead*, you and Sam become one.

If you're not a *Club Dead* head, let me explain. MTV plays *Club Dead* when they run out of videos. All the stylised techno



▲ Is the ubiquitous Spencer, the manager and creator of the hotel, the man behind the murders?

coolness of *Club Dead* has been transferred to CD to create an adventure game.

Addicted to V, you find yourself in Hotel Alexandria, where rich guests come to take illegal VR trips. Unfortunately, someone's killing them off, framing you for murder. If you

survive your first day, and contact a mysterious character called Reilly, you can begin to solve the mystery. If not, you'll find one of 22 ways for Sam to die.

Club Dead is heavily based on video clips, so true exploration is impossible and you can't choose what Sam says or picks up. All you can do is try and be in the right room at the right time and Sam will automatically find things, interact with people, and fix any broken VR equipment.

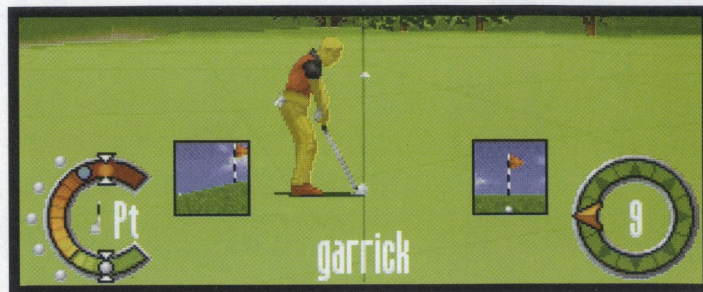
The lack of control is made up for by two things. Firstly, the MTV-style video characters are fun. The ladies seduce you in cryptic hip talk, peeping Toms record other people's VR experiences, Neo-Romans joke in pig-latin, and the hotel doctor is overwilling to dispense mind drugs for all ailments.

Secondly, the game combines pace and peculiarity quite well. If you can keep on top of the clues, and get past the first 12 hours (in game time, not real time) things become interesting. The music's good, the video works well and the in-yr-face people keep you running between rooms so as not to miss the time-linked scenes.

Club Dead can't be called superfun for adventure gamers, but it has style and is easy to play. It's a unique type of game and not a bad start in the world of CD-ROM for Viacom (owner of MTV). If you don't like futuristic Americano, don't buy it. But if you'd like a light-hearted, self-lampooning MTV mystery game, it should fit the bill.

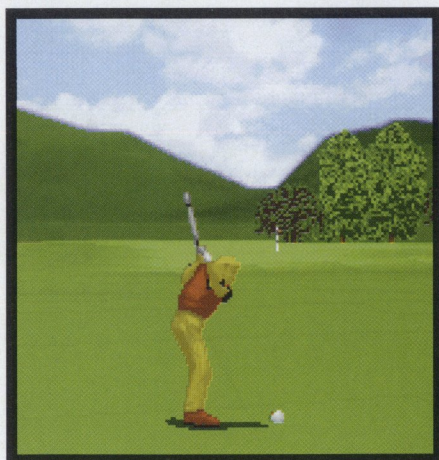
Good





▲ Hold down the 'L' key while playing a shot and the lie of your ball and how it's lined up to the hole pops up in wee boxes to the left and right.

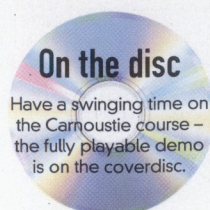
Scottish Open virtual golf



▲ Play a good shot and you can watch it over and over again with the instant replay. "Great shot" says the commentator.

Information

Scottish Open Virtual Golf is available from Core Design (☎ 01332 297797) and sells for £40.



Spring has sprung, the greens are ready, and it's time to visit the Scottish Open – on your PC. **Garrick Webster** swings into action...



▲ One of the great things about Virtual Golf is the opportunity to zoom right up to your golfer...



▲ ...or to zoom right back for a wide angle view. You can also tilt the view or swerve left and right.

B

listers on your hands, the smell of the sod, muddy shoes, the rain. Okay, you might not get any of these with *Virtual Golf*, but at least you get to play on four of bonny Scotland's finest courses.

You can choose from The Bowery, Kilmarney, Penperro or Carnoustie. But the offer of British courses – rather than the US ones you find in most golf games – is not the only unique thing about *Virtual Golf*. It also has an impressive set of viewing options. You can move towards or away from your golfer, tilt the view up or down, and there are six ball-tracking options available for watching your ball in flight.

The other area where *Virtual Golf* excels is in colour. Although all golf games have green in common, *Virtual Golf* gives you richer fairways, brighter greens and moodier skies – just like the real Scotland.

As for gameplay, the controls are set up a little more like an arcade game than your usual PC golf sim. Swinging is easiest in Practice and Tournament modes where you get a grey target in the swing-o-meter by which to judge the strength of your required swing.

Unfortunately in Scottish Open and Skins Challenge play there's no such luxury and it's very, very difficult to judge how hard to hit the ball. There's no

way of knowing how far a club will hit the ball, given your distance from the hole. You have no clue as to what 39 yards relates to on the swing-o-meter and therefore you're left muddling around sand traps and water hazards like a wazzuck.

To further your difficulties, you can hardly tell where the fairway ends and the course hazards or the green begin. But this shortcoming is mainly made up for by the speed of the real time rendering of each hole.

You should be warned here, however, that what I've reviewed here is the floppy disk version of the game. Core Design had informed us that the CD-ROM version of the game would be exactly the same as the floppy version. Just as we went to press, however, they called us to say that they would be making substantial additions to the CD-ROM version of *Virtual Golf*. These new features will include enhanced textures and backgrounds, video clips and better options menus.

You'll see below that there's no rating. Sorry folks. But hey, you can try out the floppy version demo from our disc and imagine the new CD-ROM extras. **End** ■

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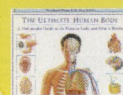
		
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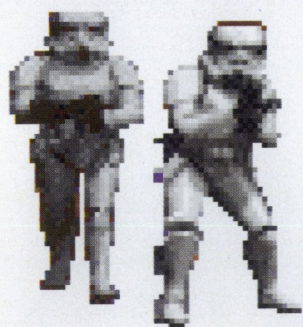
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Best
buy

Dark



forces

Long ago in a galaxy far, far away, **Garrick Webster** was hired by the Rebel Alliance to hound the Dark Forces of the Galactic Empire...

H

as George Lucas milked *Star Wars* dry? Is the *Doom*-style 3D blaster a spent formula for Virgin? The answers are no and no again.

Since *Dark Forces* copies the looks and gameplay of *Doom*, comparisons are inevitable. The main difference, however, is that *Dark Forces* is vaguely based on a plot. Complete a mission, and the story develops. And unlike *Doom* levels, *DF* missions are immense – taking an hour or more – and hence you need a lot of time and gaming stamina to get through it.

What's more, the puzzles in *Dark Forces* are more complicated than the find key/open door

structure in *Doom*. Even as low as the third level, it's tough to figure out how a sewage gate switch works, or which switch to trip first.

But despite the difficulties you'll encounter, *Dark Forces* is sometimes disappointingly unrewarding. It's plotted to be a long, campaign-like experience, so you spend ages playing before you get any decent weapons. You start with a pistol, and graduate to a laser cannon during the first level. Thereafter it's a long wait until you get your hands on anything really spectacular.

The sound effects that go with the weapons are likewise piddly. Although the game has stereo sound, the shooting just doesn't have the kind of presence

you find in the *Star Wars* films. But the digitised speech on the Storm Troopers works well: "Set blasters on full..."

To create a more realistic first person effect *Dark Forces* gives you the ability to aim up and down. The trouble is that your weapon will target the level of your enemy automatically most of the time anyway.

Slightly more challenging is your occasional need to jump or duck. Ducking's a good way to avoid Imperial fire and you might have to jump on to a ledge to collect weapon charges or shield power, or jump and duck at once to get through a hatch. Although these manoeuvres are annoying during a firefight, their inclusion adds a challenge and makes it that bit more interesting.

The best part, however, has to be the manifold opportunities to shoot Storm Troopers, Imperial Guards, security droids, sewage monsters and the newly invented Dark Troopers. If you want a game with long, involving missions, and have always wanted to relive the laser gun fighting action of *Star Wars*, this is the one.

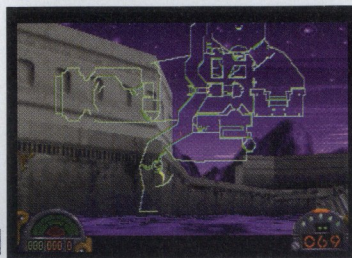
Very good



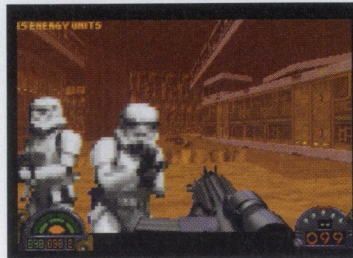
▲ The best thing in the first mission is the projection of the Death Star showing this control centre. When you reach this point you know you're close to finding the blueprints for the Death Star.

Information

Dark Forces was developed by LucasArts and is available from Virgin Interactive (☎ 0181 960 2255). It costs £50.



▲ Instead of a separate map screen, you hit TAB and the automap is projected over the gaming screen.



▲ The problem with these damned Storm Troopers is that, depending on the difficulty level, they can regenerate. The harder the level, the more rapidly dead ones reappear.

Amazing.



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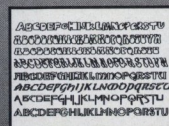
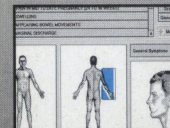


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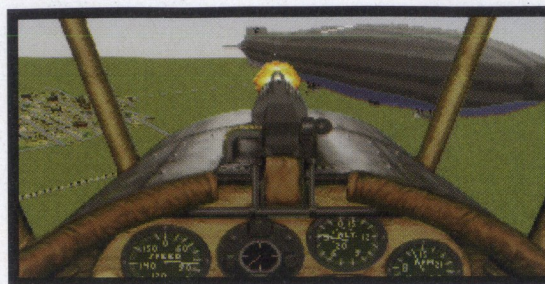
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What's new on the

Games Scene



◀ *Wings of Glory* published by Origin costs £40 and is available from Electronic Arts ☎ 01753 549442. Rating ★★★★★

A martial arts expert, a WW1 ace pilot, a criminal, a spy... surely **Garrick Webster** can't be all these things – at least not simultaneously?

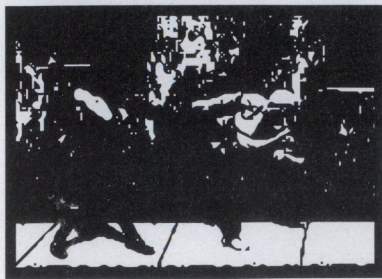
T

he top game on the scene this month is an absolute action attack. We've got our hands on a very cool PC CD beat-'em-up,

and you may just have heard of it before. It's called *Mortal Kombat II*.

Those not familiar with this Megadrive hit will be pleased to hear that *MKII* lets you play one of twelve deadly martial artists, each with a unique way of finishing off his or her opponents. Like any beat-'em-up, there's no brains involved – except the ones that occasionally get splattered at the end of a fight – but it's tremendous fun. Compared to many fighting games emanating from Japan, it's not that gorey at all.

The addictiveness of *MKII* comes from its wild series of challenge fights. Finish one killer and the next hits you – literally – with a whole new fighting style. The only troublesome thing about it is that you definitely need a joypad to play it as using the key controls gets you killed every time. Believe me.



Mortal Kombat II costs £40 and is available from Acclaim ☎ 0171 344 5000. Rating ★★★★★

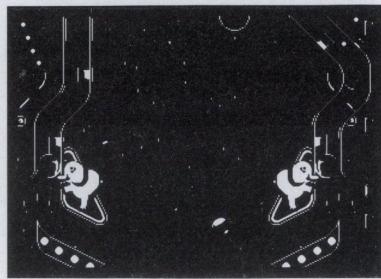
Dogfight

An entirely different kind of action is on offer in *Wings of Glory*, a WWI flight sim. With a set of missions to complete over the Western Front, the game is broken up by sections where you converse with your CO and other air force people. These bits contribute little fun – you'll have that shooting down enemy barons, zeppelins and so on.

Dogfighting is fun, and the controls are easy to master. The main trouble is that the graphics engine, like a WWI plane, is a bit of an old clunker. It tends to get jumpy, even on a DX2, and if this happens during combat, it's hard to target your enemy, although his bullets will undoubtedly be ripping into you. If you don't trust me, try it out for yourself on the coverdisc.

Pinball wizard

If you're mad about pinball, and can handle scrolling tables on a 15-inch monitor, you could have a look at *Psycho Pinball*. It has four tables,



Psycho Pinball costs £50 from Codemasters ☎ 01926 814132. Rating ★★★★★



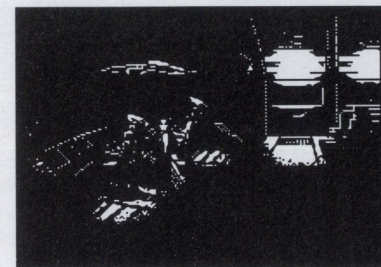
Big Red Adventure, costs £40 from Core Design ☎ 01332 297797. Rating ★★★★★

and among these, the psycho table is definitely the best. It's based on a theme park and is easy to play, fast and fairly addictive. The other tables – based on Wild West, underwater and Halloween themes – are a bit more intricate and take a while to get used to.

Nevertheless, they should give multi-table connoisseurs a rise and the multi-ball action isn't bad. It ain't mad, but it's certainly playable. Lots of variety too. *Psycho Pinball* is probably as good as any of the shareware tables going around, but it's quite a whack for a pinball game. Then again, if you're easily addicted, it may be worth it.

Jack the lad

As with every month, it's now time to turn over to the CD adventure games, *Guilty*, a game that lets you choose between playing the criminal Jack T Ladd or his WPC escort Ysanne Andropath. If you play Jack, you have to try and escape, if you play Ysanne you have to stop Jack from getting away – hey, two games



Guilty costs £40 and is sold by Sony Psygnosis ☎ 0151 709 5755. Rating ★★★★★

in one. There's plenty to explore, easy controls and a light plot, yet despite sampled speech, the graphics are pretty chunky.

Seeing red

Finally, East meets West in *Big Red Adventure*, an adventure game based on the switch from communism to capitalism in Russia. Your job is to prevent the Soviet rot reasserting itself, to avert a new Cold War.

Sounds like cerebral fun, but attempts to put crazy humour into the game have failed and it's quite bland. But the SVGA graphics are very sharp, making up for *Big Red's* lack of excitement. It also has loads of puzzles, extensive locations to explore and a multi-linear plot. If you've always wanted to enter the world of espionage, the demo's on this month's coverdisc.

Next month we'll be back with our usual two packed pages. Oh yeah, and watch for our new tips section as well. Bye.

End ■

It was a **TOUGH ASSIGNMENT...**

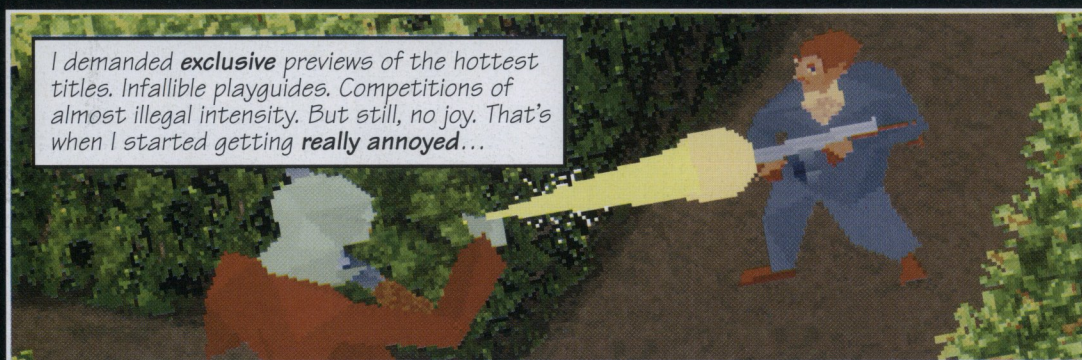
"Find us a **new** kind of PC games magazine," they said. **Yeah**, like I was just going to pop down to the shops...



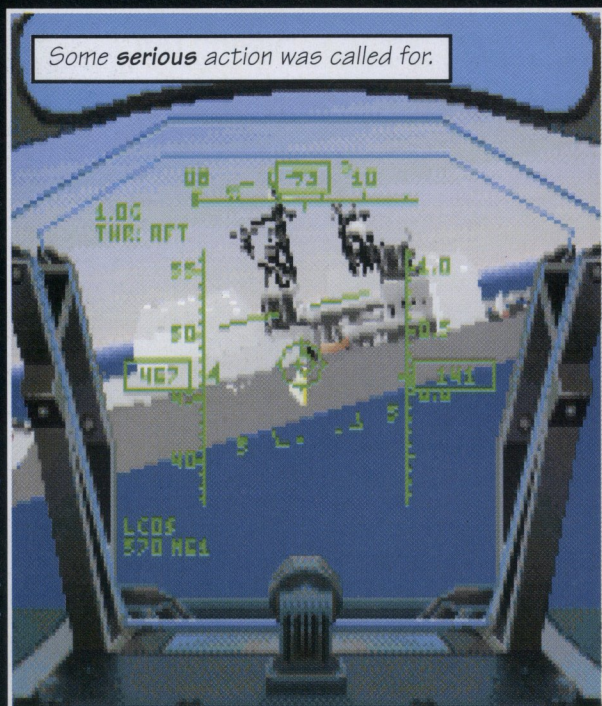
The **Cyberdemons** put up quite a fight, and the dragon was no pushover. But I needed **fearless** reviews of the biggest games, and by God I was going to get them!



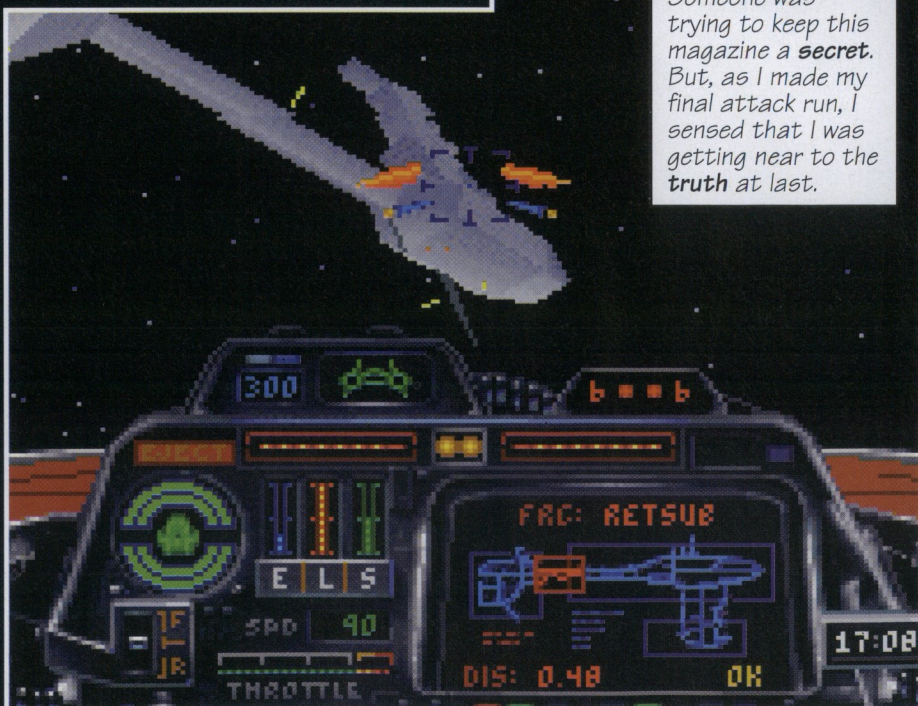
I demanded **exclusive** previews of the hottest titles. Infallible playguides. Competitions of almost illegal intensity. But still, no joy. That's when I started getting **really annoyed**...



Some **serious** action was called for.



Someone was trying to keep this magazine a **secret**. But, as I made my final attack run, I sensed that I was getting near to the **truth** at last.





And then I found it. They told me everything. I'd expected something big, but **nothing** - **NOTHING** - as big as this!

...but **I MADE IT!**

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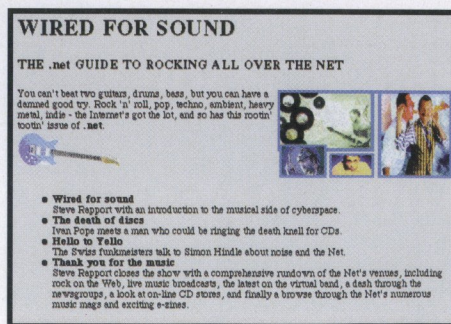
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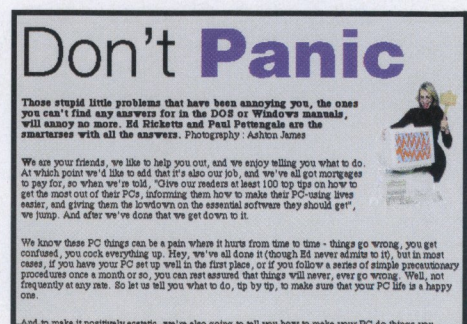
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Buyer's guide

The Buyer's Guide is updated each month, with ratings of all the discs we've reviewed. So you'll have no trouble selecting your next purchase!



Choosing a CD-ROM can be a chore. There are thousands of discs out there on the shelves. How do you know what's actually worth buying? And even if you have a vague idea of what you want, how do you know which is the best title on the subject, or where to buy it? The Buyer's Guide is here to help solve the problem.

We cover at least 350 CD-ROM titles every month, and to make life even easier, we've divided them into different sections, as listed on the right. You'll find the prices of the discs and the phone numbers of suppliers. You can also discover which multimedia features a disc offers: animation, video, sound or pictures.

The Buyer's Guide includes ratings for all the titles we've looked at so far. Three to five stars means it's worth buying; less than that, and you might be taking a risk. If there are no stars by a disc, it doesn't necessarily mean it's awful, we just haven't reviewed it yet. If a disc has been fully reviewed, we've included the issue number it appeared in, so you can find out about it in detail.

We update the Buyer's Guide each month, so that we can bring you details of the latest discs we've reviewed, so some titles are replaced by newer ones. Where there are several similar titles on the same subject, we only include the best or most recent ones.

All these listings are compiled meticulously from our own research, so every fact is checked. We've only selected titles of broad consumer interest and haven't included more specialist stuff like fonts discs, or public domain/shareware collections or clip art and other graphic media.

Happy hunting. We hope you find something you like!

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Continued overleaf ►

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Arts

Arts

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
A Hard Day's Night (Issue 2)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£41	★☆☆☆☆	Softline	0181 4011234
The classic Beatles' film on CD, with the complete script and an essay by film historian Bruce Eder.										
Animals in Motion	Online Entertainment	D	●		●	●	£35		Online Entertainment	0181 5586114
Edward Muybridge's seminal work on animal photography is brought to life in this important reference guide.										
Arts & Letters Express (Issue 10)	Arts & Letters	W				●	£190	★★★★☆	National CD-ROM Co	01293 884146
A sophisticated graphics package incorporating a range of tools for manipulating illustrations and imported images.										
The Bolshoi at the Bolshoi (Issue 9)	CD Vision	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	CD Vision	0181 5030588
Video clips and music from six classic ballets, with the plots explained clearly, page by page. An MPEG version providing full-screen video is available for £50.										
Cameron's Fine Art	Cameron Enterprises	D			●	●	£35		Unica	0161 4290241
450 well-known works from leading artists and photographers, accompanied by numerous sound clips.										
Cinemania '95 (Issue 9)	Microsoft	W		●	●	●	£39	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Reviews, video clips, hundreds of stills and a user-friendly interface make this the definitive CD-ROM movie guide.										
Cinema Volta	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£45		Softline	0181 4011234
Artist and narrator Jim Petrillo looks at the lives and works of the great electrical innovators.										
Coate's Impressionism (Issue 6)	Quanta Press	D				●	£52	★★☆☆☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Over 600 images, with biographical data on their creators.										
The Complete Waste of Time (Issue 7)	7th Level	W	●	●	●	●	£55	★★★★☆	Longman Logotron	01223 425558
Monty Python on CD-ROM, with new animations from Terry Gilliam, wacky games and familiar clips from the original TV shows.										
Ephemeral Films	Voyager	W		●	●		£30		Softline	0181 4011234
Off-beat film clips chronicle the American age of consumerism.										
Exploring Modern Art (Issue 6)	Attica Cybernetics	W	●		●	●	£59	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
A classy tour of the Tate Gallery - the senior curator provides fascinating (but brief) information.										
Film Index International	Chadwyck-Healey	D					£750		Chadwyck-Healey	01223 311479
Details of more than 90,000 films released up until the end of 1991, with comprehensive search facilities.										
Great Artists and Paintings (Issue 6)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£50		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Photographs and video clips from the National Gallery in an exploration of the life and works of 58 famous artists.										
I Photograph to Remember	Voyager	W			●	●	£41		Softline	0181 4011234
A multimedia document by photographer Pedro Meyer on his parents' struggles to overcome cancer.										
Impressionism and its Sources	EBook Inc	W			●	●	£46		CD-Direct	01703 455115
1,000 images and thorough search options, with music from Chopin and Fauré.										
Investigating 20th Century Art	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£149		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Over 150 works of art from the Tate Gallery complement a commentary on modern art.										
It's a Wonderful Life	Alpha & Omega	W		●	●	●	£20		Unica	0161 4290241
View the entire film, or concentrate on your favourite clips.										
Jurassic Park Screen Saver (Issue 9)	Asymetrix	W	●	●	●	●	£25	★★☆☆☆	GEM	01279 822822
After-Dark compatible CD-ROM screen saver based on the movie.										
Macbeth (Issue 7)	Voyager	D	●		●	●	£93	★★☆☆☆	Softline	0181-4011234
Listen to the actors of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and take part in the performance with 'Karaoke Shakespeare'.										
Mega Movie Guide (Issue 1)	Infobusiness	D/W		●	●	●	£43	★★☆☆☆	CD-Direct	01703 455115
58,000 film reviews, 2 hours of film clips and advanced indexing options that can search the user's own notes.										
Microsoft Art Gallery (Issue 6)	Microsoft	W/D	●		●	●	£44	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
A sumptuous collection of works from London's National Gallery, with vivid colour, animation and sound.										
Midnight Movie Madness (Issue 1)	Medio MultiMedia	W/D	●	●	●	●	£47	★★☆☆☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Chat, quizzes and trivia, with a multitude of clips from cult films like <i>The Blob</i> and <i>Godzilla</i> .										
Renaissance Masters	EBook Inc	W				●	£42		CD-Direct	01703 455115
A two-disc series, with 1,300 glossed images on each title.										
Roger Ebert's Movie Guide	Quanta Press	D		●	●	●	£52		Optech	01252 714340
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Spinal Tap	Voyager	W		●	●		£41		Softline	0181 4011234
Rob Reiner's legendary movie, with interviews and out-takes.										
Women in Motion	Online Entertainment	D	●			●	£35		Online Entertainment	0181 5586114
More of Muybridge's experiments into the representation of moving images.										
Woodstock (Issue 6)	Time Warner	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
An in-depth look at the ultimate flower power festival, including excerpts from Michael Wadleigh's film.										



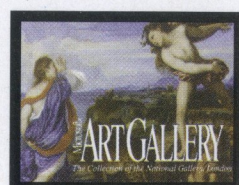
▲ Cinemania '95



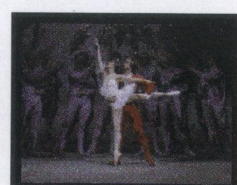
▲ Great Artists and Paintings



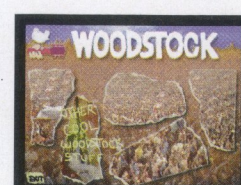
▲ I Photograph...



▲ Microsoft Art Gallery



▲ The Bolshoi



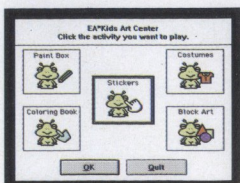
▲ Woodstock

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Children's

Children's

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
10 out of 10 Junior Essentials (Issue 10)	Educational Systems	D	●		●	●	£26	★★★★☆	Educational Systems	01142 780-370
A selection of games that would feel at home in the classroom. The interface will require an adult to operate it.										
Around the World in 80 Days (Issue 10)	EA * Kids	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
A re-hashed version of the classic story, with a range of 'Paintbox Pals' to help you on your journey.										
Art Center (Issue 10)	EA * Kids	W	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Drawing package for children including a colouring book, options to make stickers, dress characters or make a screensaver.										
Best Neighbourhood Ever (Issue 4)	Activision	W	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Activision	0181 7429400
A series of educational games and cartoon entertainments based on the characters of Richard Scarry.										
The Circus (Issue 11)	Matra Hachette	W	●		●	●	£47	★★★★☆	Koch Media	01252 714340
Brilliant disc with lots of games to play. A must for anyone with a wacky sense of humour.										
Counting on Frank (Issue 10)	EA * Kids	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Excellent educational maths games that are fun to play.										
Dandy Dinosaurs	Multicom	W	●	●	●	●	£41		Kamco	01895 271919
Video demonstrations of craft activities accompany dinosaur-related games and a story book.										
Eagle Eye Mysteries	EA * Kids	D	●		●		£40		Electronic Arts	01753 549442
There are two discs in this series of educational detective stories for children, each with around 50 mysteries.										
The Family Bible (Issue 11)	Time Warner	W	●		●	●	£44	★★★★☆	Koch Media	01252 714340
Modern translation of the Old Testament with stories and illustrations from a 1940's book of American Bible stories.										
Fun School in Dreamland (Issue 11)	Europress	D	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Europress	01625 859333
Beautifully illustrated educational disc, including basic maths, spelling and punctuation and telling the time, disguised as wacky games.										
Harry and the Haunted House (Issue 8)	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Another delightful Living Book, mixing fun with education. Also available: <i>Grandma and Me</i> and <i>Ruff's Bone</i> .										
Interactive Storytime	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£40		Mindscape	01444 246333
Three discs make up this collection of interactive stories for children.										
Kid's Encyclopedia (Issue 11)	Knowledge Adventure	W	●	●	●	●	£51	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
A comprehensive encyclopedia for children, with a 'movie theatre', arcade full of games, and a 'Fact-ory' full of knowledge. It's fun!										
Kingfisher Children's Micropedia (Issue 7)	ESM	W	●		●	●	£90	★★★★☆	ESM	01223 576241
With 1,300 entries and 1,600 pictures, this mini encyclopedia is ideal for children from 8–12 years old.										
Legends of Oz	Multicom	W	●	●	●		£41		Kamco	01865 271919
Stories, games and clips from the classic movie.										
Little Monster at School (Issue 6)	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
An endearing learn through play story for children. Also available: <i>Arthur's Teacher Trouble</i> .										
Magic Bus Explores the Solar System (Issue 10)	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£48	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Based on the American cartoon series, <i>The Magic School Bus</i> , the disc provides a fun school trip to the Solar System.										
Magic Theatre (Issue 7)	Knowledge Adventure	W	●		●	●	£51	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
The chance for children to become the new Walt Disney, creating, narrating and animating their own computer movies.										
My First Incredible Dictionary (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	0171 8365411
The dictionary with a difference, including 3,000 sound effects and 850 animations.										
PAWS (Issue 8)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
A delightful 'dog simulator' with wonderful animation and some barking mad adventures. Essential for all cuddly canine lovers.										
Peter and the Wolf (Issue 10)	Time Warner	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
A double CD-set with the full Prokofiev score, story-book style animation and interactive educational sections.										
Professor Iris (Issue 10)	Computer Manuals	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
An African safari for animal lovers, with Professor Iris, a pink parrot, your guide.										
Putt-Putt's Fun Pack (Issue 3)	Humongus	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Exuberant edutainment. Also available: <i>Putt-Putt Goes to the Moon</i> and <i>Putt-Putt Joins the Parade</i> .										
Richard Scarry's Busytown (Issue 1)	Paramount/QUE	W	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Colourful and explorable interactive environment for children.										
Scavenger Hunt: Africa	Davidson	W	●		●	●	£40		ABLAC	01626 332233
Animal discovery program with hand-painted scenes that create a different learning adventure each time.										
Sesame Street (Issue 10)	EA * Kids	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Join all your favourite characters and a few new ones playing a variety of learning games. For 3 to 6 year olds.										
Stradiwackius (Issue 11)	T/Maker	W	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Asymetrix	0171 7129363
A 'Counting Concert' for children – beautifully rendered graphics accompany counting and information about musical instruments.										
Thumbelina (Issue 10)	Time Warner	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
The fairytale told in storybook style, suitable for 4–8 year olds.										



▲ Art Center



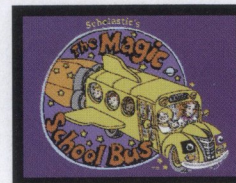
▲ The Circus



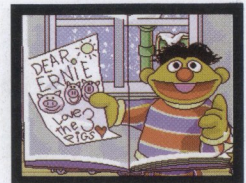
▲ Fun School in Dreamland



▲ Kid's Encyclopedia



▲ Magic School Bus



▲ Sesame Street

Continued overleaf ►

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Children's

Children's

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
The Treasure Hunt (Issue 6)	Omnimedia A beautifully illustrated pirate story, with puzzles to solve along the way.	W	●		●	●	£35	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Omnimedia	0181 9746766
Tuneland (Issue 2)	7th Level Some 43 children's songs accompany the brilliant cartoon action of this great kids title.	W	●		●		£45	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Longman Logotron	01223 425558
Twins in Trouble (Issue 10)	SCOPS Some 43 children's songs accompany the brilliant cartoon action of this great kids title.	D	●		●	●	£30	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	SCOPS	01252 722223
Ultimate Haunted House (Issue 9)	Microsoft Spooky fun game for kids, with art and animations by Gahan Wilson.	W	●		●	●	£45	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Wiggins in Storyland (Issue 4)	Media Vision A colourful and effective story-writing package for youngsters.	D	●		●	●	£30	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Ridgeway	01844 342411
Willy Wabbit's Magical Books (Issue 4)	SEC A lacklustre attempt to replicate the success of the Living Books series.	W	●		●	●	£39	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	CD-Direct	01'03 455115
Zargon Zoo (Issue 6)	Plum Productions Comic-style game with limited educational material.	W	●		●	●	£46	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Romedia	01703 871177

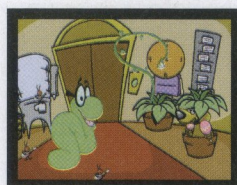
Education

Education

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
AutoLire (Issue 5)	Mindscape An archive of 700 articles designed to supplement French teaching at Key Stage 4.	D				●	£125	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Collins Educational	0141 3063269
Berlitz Think & Talk French (Issue 5)	Hyperglot An 8-disc French tutor starting with the very basics. Although comprehensive, it lacks variety, and requires a lot of concentration.	W	●		●	●	£89	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Unica	0161 4290241
Big Green Disc (Issue 7)	MDI A colourful, clear and concise look at environmental issues.	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
The Chemistry Set	New Media A chemistry laboratory on a disc which includes over 350 experimentation video sequences - for school and the home. Also available: <i>World of Number</i> at £79.	W		●	●	●	£99		New Media	0171 4824957
Complete Maths Workshop	TopClass Technology Covers the complete Maths GCSE syllabus. Also available <i>Advanced Maths Workshop</i> for £249.	D					£149		TopClass Technology	01773 820011
Environment 2: Land and Air (Issue 7)	ILP Cross-curricular educational package closely linked to the demands of the National Curriculum. Also available: <i>Environment 1: Water</i> .	W	●	●	●	●	£130	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Academy	01132 461528
Exploring Earth Science (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics A resource to support key stages 3 & 4 of the National Curriculum for Geography and Science. Also available <i>Exploring Plant Science</i> .	W	●	●	●	●	£199	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Global French (Issue 5)	Mindscape Good all-round French tutor for both children and adults.	W	●		●	●	£60	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
How to...Computers (Issue 5)	CRT Multimedia The unfathomably affable Katy Kennedy guides you through a basic tutorial in information technology.	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	CRT Multimedia	0181 7439900
I Speak French (Issue 9)	Infogrames Basic introduction to French with the aid of games and short dialogues in comic book style.	D			●	●	£35	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Infogrames	0171 7388199
Japanese for Business (Issue 5)	Berlitz An excellent foundation in Japanese language and culture.	W	●		●	●	£100	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Learn French with Asterix & Son (Issue 5)	Eurotalk The popular Belgian cartoon character Asterix teaches French. Also available: <i>Asterix & the Secret Weapon</i> .	W	●		●	●	£59	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Eurotalk Limited	0171 3717711
Learn to Speak Spanish (Issue 5)	Hyperglot Well-implemented video footage enhances this comprehensive language tutor.	W	●	●	●	●	£129	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
Learn Your PC (Issue 8)	CD-ROM Systems Covers a wide range of information about PCs in both tutorial and reference form, but lacks depth and much of the information is out of date.	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	CD-ROM Systems	01283 52527
Lyric Language French (Issue 1)	Penton Overseas French tutorial for children with live action video, graphics, music, word games and photographic images.	W/D	●	●	●	●	£70	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Cambridge CD-ROM	01449 774658
Mario Teaches Typing (Issue 10)	Interplay A typing tutorial for children, which tries hard to be a console game, but doesn't quite make it.	D	●		●	●	£47	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Interplay	01235 821888
Memphis Math (Issue 8)	Novell/WordPerfect Join Dr T C King in his search for the sacred scarab of ancient Egypt, answering questions about fractions and decimals along the way.	W	●		●	●	£Call	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Novell/WordPerfect	01932 850505
Ruf' Mal An Vols 1 & 2 (Issue 5)	Libra Multimedia Exercises based on telephone conversations to improve your German. Also available: <i>¿Dígame?</i> for your Spanish.	W			●		£99	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Libra Multimedia	01753 864547
SuperCoach Rugby Union (Issue 8)	Supercoach Linked to the National Curriculum, this game teaches the rules and techniques of rugby union through multiple choice questions and animation.	D	●		●	●	£40	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	SuperCoach	0121 5851301



▲ Ultimate Haunted House



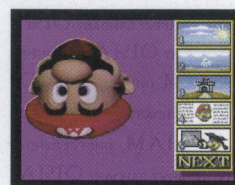
▲ Wiggins in Storyland



▲ The Big Green Disc



▲ I Speak French



▲ Mario Teaches Typing



▲ SuperCoach Rugby

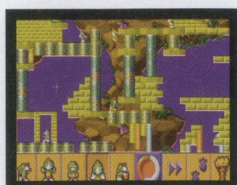
Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Games

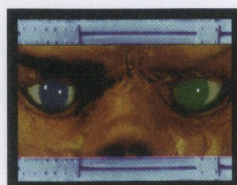
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
The 7th Guest (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Seminal double-CD puzzle game featuring sumptuously pre-rendered 3D graphics.										
Aces of the Deep (Issue 9)	Dynamix	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Dynamix	01734 303171
Combat game that puts you in control of a German U-Boat in World War 2.										
Aegis (Issue 5)	Time Warner	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 790785
Naval strategy game; extremely detailed but still highly playable.										
All New World of Lemmings (Issue 9)	Sony Psygnosis	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
A superb follow up to the two original games, with a greater emphasis on action-orientated gameplay.										
Alien Logic (Issue 11)	SSI	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Futuristic adventure, with superb graphics, but difficult controls.										
Alone in the Dark 2 (Issue 8)	Infogrames	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Infogrames	0171 7388199
Excellent cinematic action-adventure game. Also available: <i>Alone in the Dark</i> .										
Armored Fist (Issue 9)	US Gold	D	●		●		£Call	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
A battle simulation with you as a Task Force Commander.										
Battle Isle 2 (Issue 2)	Blue Byte	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Kompart	01438 840004
A supreme wargame, with a host of multimedia enhancements.										
Beneath a Steel Sky (Issue 5)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Excellent graphics from top comic artist Dave Gibbons make for a highly enjoyable science fiction adventure game.										
Betrayal at Krondor (Issue 7)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
A large and absorbing fantasy adventure game.										
Buzz Aldrin's Race Into Space (Issue 2)	Interplay	D	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	01235 821666
A multimedia-enhanced strategy game - race to be the first world power to control space.										
Campaign (Issue 9)	Empire Software	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Empire Software	0181 3439143
Wargame with lots of multimedia features including digitised speeches, a history of the war, photographs, maps, etc. Slightly too complex for novices.										
Chessmaster 4000 Turbo (Issue 6)	Mindscape	W	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Superb graphics and a huge range of options for customisation ensure that this game is a winner.										
Commander Blood (Issue 10)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Travel through blackholes, and with a little help from your friends you can find out the meaning of life.										
Creature Shock (Issue 9)	Virgin	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Visually impressive futuristic game which is let down somewhat by the shoot-'em-up gameplay.										
Cyberia (Issue 10)	Interplay	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	01238 821666
Great sound and music accompany this hugely successful action adventure.										
Cyberwar (Issue 10)	Sales Curve	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Sales Curve	0171 5853308
Characters from <i>The Lawnmower Man</i> battle it out in a futuristic world.										
Dark Legions (Issue 6)	US Gold	D	●		●	●	£36	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
Game combining action and strategy that pitches two armies of mythical creatures against each other. Play the computer or a friend.										
Dawn Patrol (Issue 9)	Empire Software	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Empire Software	0181 3439143
World War 1 flight simulator, with superb graphics.										
Day of the Tentacle (Issue 1)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£33	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
A cartoon adventure into the bizarre that has proved hugely popular with users everywhere.										
Death Gate (Issue 11)	Legend	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Accolade	0dasdasdasd
Graphic adventure set in mystical fantasy world.										
Desert Strike (Issue 8)	Gremlin	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	01142 753423
Previously found on the Sega Mega Drive, the game now has one extra level, combining strategy and action with agility.										
Doom II (Issue 11)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Violent and particularly addictive 3D shoot 'em up.										
DragonLore (Issue 10)	Cryo Interactive	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Medieval action and strategy game.										
Dragonsphere (Issue 2)	Microprose	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Microprose	01454 326532
A deep and involving point-and-click adventure game with fully-digitised speech.										
DreamWeb (Issue 8)	Empire Software	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Empire Software	0181 3439143
'Cyberpunk' sci-fi adventure game.										
Dune (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Take on the role of Paul Atreides in this strategic evocation of Frank Herbert's <i>Dune</i> .										



▲ Aces of the Deep



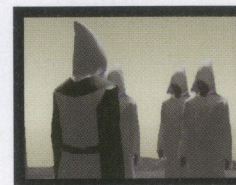
▲ All New Lemmings



▲ Commander Blood



▲ Creature Shocks



▲ Death Gate



▲ Doom II

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Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Games

Games

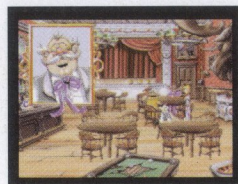
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Ecstatica (Issue 8)	Sony Psygnosis	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	0151 7095755
Set in a medieval village where nightmarish events have taken place, this action game combines brilliant graphics with a high level of playability. Warning: 18s only.										
The Even More Incredible Machine (Issue 7)	Sierra OnLine	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sierra OnLine	01734 303171
170 problems to solve, using balloons, ropes, pulleys...you name it. For inventors everywhere!										
Fantasy Fest (Issue 10)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Four fantasy games on one disc: <i>Dungeon Hack</i> , <i>Fantasy Empires</i> , <i>Unlimited Adventures</i> and <i>Stronghold</i> .										
FIFA International Soccer (Issue 7)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Football game with commentary from none other than Tony Gubba.										
Fortress of Dr Radiaki (Issue 11)	GEM	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
Penetrate the island base of a radioactive mutant and kill him before he destroys the world - if you can cope with the jerky graphics engine.										
Freddy Farkas Frontier Pharmacist (Issue 11)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Wacky game set in an old Wild West town.										
Front Page Sports Baseball (Issue 10)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Baseball gamew with a huge array of statistics on each of the 1994 Major League players.										
Gabriel Knight (Issue 2)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Stylish and occasionally horrific adventure game.										
Goblins 3	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Entertaining adventure-cum-puzzle game. Also available: <i>Gobliins</i> and <i>Gobliins 2</i> .										
Harpoon (Issue 5)	Digital Integration	D	●		●		£18	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
Somewhat dated, but still an excruciatingly accurate naval combat simulator.										
Hell: A Cyberpunk Thriller (Issue 11)	Take2	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Gametek	01753 553340
Action game set in the year 2095.										
The Horde (Issue 3)	Crystal Dynamics	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
A surprisingly successful mixture of strategy game and arcade hack-'em-up.										
Indiana Jones (Issue 3)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£33	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
Search for the lost city of Atlantis in this fully-voiced adventure game.										
Inferno (Issue 8)	DID	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	DID/Ocean	0161 8326633
3D space game with over 700 missions and stunning graphics, but flawed in some areas.										
The Interactive Collection (Issue 11)	Kixx	D/W	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Kixx	0121 6253311
A collection of 10 CDs containing 16 pieces of interactive software includin games, and DOS versions of <i>Space Encyclopedia</i> and <i>The Software Toolworks Atlas</i> .										
Ishaar III (Issue 11)	Daze Marketing	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Daze Marketing	0171 3727435
Adventure game with great graphics and fantastic atmosphere.										
Jazz Jackrabbit (Issue 11)	Epic Megagames	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Epic Megagames	01767 260903
Platform game with loads of levels, amusing sounds and brilliant gameplay. Rivals Sonic any day!										
Jump Raven (Issue 2)	Paramount Interactive	D	●		●		£79	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7061188
An action-packed shoot-'em-up set on the mean streets of the future.										
Jurassic Park	Ocean	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Ocean	0161 8326633
Dinosaur-bashing fun in this atmospheric movie spin-off.										
King's Quest VII (Issue 11)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Join Queen Valanice and Princess Rosella in this rather corny adventure. Also available: <i>King's Quest Collection</i> , <i>King's Quest V</i> and <i>King's Quest VI</i> .										
Kyrandia 3 (Issue 9)	Virgin	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Worthy successor to <i>The Legend of Kyrandia</i> , with stunning graphics and well-recorded dialogue, not forgetting some rather sad humour.										
Labyrinth of Time (Issue 2)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Overcome the megalomaniacal King Midas, solving puzzles across time and space.										
Lands of Lore (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
The voice of Patrick Stewart, along with other less notable actors, enlivens this enjoyable adventure.										
Lemmings Double Pack	Sony Psygnosis	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
The original <i>Lemmings</i> plus <i>Oh No! Not More Lemmings</i> ; over 200 levels of puzzling action.										
Lilil Divil (Issue 4)	Gremlin	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	01142 753423
Well-animated puzzle-solving cartoon antics.										
Little Big Adventure (Issue 8)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Excellent action/adventure game with a huge playing area.										
Loom (Issue 10)	LucasArts	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
Fantasy point-and-click adventure game with atmospheric speech and graphics.										
The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes (Issue 3)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Play the part of Holmes himself in this very enjoyable graphic adventure.										



▲ Ecstatica



▲ Fantasy Fest



▲ Freddy Farkas



▲ Front Page Baseball



▲ Ishaar III



▲ Jazz Jackrabbit

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Games

Games

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Lost Treasures of Infocom	Infocom	D					£39	★★★★☆	Activision	0181 742400
	Twenty vintage adventure games on one disc. Volume 2 contains another 14.									
Magic Carpet (Issue 8)	Bullfrog	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Take to the skies on a magic carpet, collecting spells and magical energy. Play in stereogram mode if your eyes can take it.									
Manchester United Premier League (Issue 6)	Krisalis	D	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Krisalis	01709 372290
	All the big teams are feature in this well-implemented if rather unfriendly-looking football game.									
Megafortress Mega Pak (Issue 5)	Digital Integration	D	●		●		£18	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
	Complex and difficult air combat game that rewards perseverance.									
MegaRace (Issue 2)	Mindscape	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
	Amusing video footage of gameshow host 'Lance Boyle' brings this futuristic racing game to life.									
Menzoberranzan (Issue 11)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
	Dungeons and Dragons style 3D adventure.									
Metaltech: Earthsiege (Issue 10)	Dynamix	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Dynamix	01734 303171
	Complex and demanding game fighting evil robots that have taken over the planet.									
Microsoft Golf	Microsoft	W			●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
	Slice and putt your way through this popular golf game.									
Millennium Auction (Issue 4)	Eidolon	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Exciting and intellectually stimulating game for up to four players, involving buying and selling at a futuristic gallery.									
Myst (Issue 1)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Superb 3D puzzle adventure game with luscious graphics and a good soundtrack.									
NASCAR Racing (Issue 10)	Papyrus	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Virgin Interactive	0181 9602255
	Excellent racing game with brilliant graphics. Requires at least a DX2 or preferably a Pentium processor.									
NHL Hockey '95 (Issue 6)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Unique TV-style presentation makes this version of the classic game more exciting than ever.									
Noctropolis (Issue 10)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Enter a sinister cartoon world in a bid to stop murder and mayhem.									
Novastorm (Issue 8)	Sony Psygnosis	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
	Sleek 3D space blast-'em-up.									
On the Ball (Issue 10)	Ascon	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Daze Marketing	0171 3727435
	A football management game with commentary from John Motson.									
Outpost (Issue 5)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
	Gorgeous hi-res graphics spice up this absorbing space-age strategy game.									
Panzer General (Issue 10)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
	Wargame with some interesting features, including use of film footage and digitised photographs.									
PGA Tour 486 Golf (Issue 6)	Electronic Arts	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Superb graphics make this golfing game hard to resist.									
Pinball Dreams Deluxe (Issue 6)	21st Century	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	21st Century	01235 851852
	Combining <i>Pinball Dreams 1 and 2</i> , there are 8 tables to choose from, amusing animation, an improved soundtrack and a history of the game.									
Privateer (Issue 5)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
	Origin's classic but ever-so-slightly tired sci-fi action/adventure.									
Psychotron (Issue 5)	Merit	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
	Original but unfocussed video-based adventure game.									
Quarantine (Issue 8)	Gametek	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Gametek	01753 553445
	Take a ride as a violent taxi-driver of the future, blasting people out of the way to reach your destination.									
Rebel Assault (Issue 1)	LucasArts	D	●	●	●	●	£43	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
	Cinematic entertainment courtesy of LucasArts and their enjoyable Star Wars-based game.									
Retribution (Issue 9)	Gremlin	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Gremlin	01142 753423
	Sci-fi game with interesting plot but lacking any distinguishing features.									
Return to Ringworld (Issue 6)	Time Warner	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
	Adventure game involving sci-fi problem-solving, based on the writings of Larry Niven									
Return to Zork (Issue 3)	Activision	D	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Activision	0181 7429400
	Adventure game with smart graphics and more than one hour of lip-synched dialogue.									
Rise of the Robots (Issue 10)	Mirage	D	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
	Cyborg fights cyborg in this rather one-sided game.									
Secret of Monkey Island (Issue 10)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£20	★★★★☆	Kixx XL	0121 6253366
	LucasArts' seminal graphic adventure now available for CD-ROM.									



▲ Metaltech: Earthsiege



▲ Menzoberranzan



▲ NASCAR Racing



▲ Noctropolis



▲ Retribution



▲ Rise of the Robots

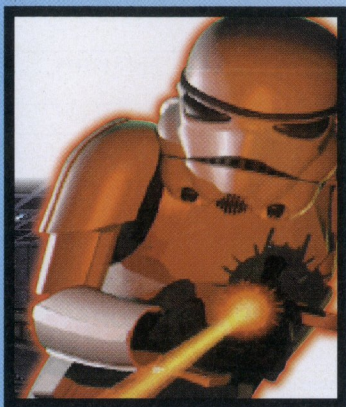
Continued overleaf ►

CD-ROM Today

You know you can always rely on *CD-ROM Today* for the very latest news, features and reviews – not forgetting the fantastic demos on the coverdisc. But we have some other stablemates at Future Publishing that might interest you too...



Recommends...



PC Answers

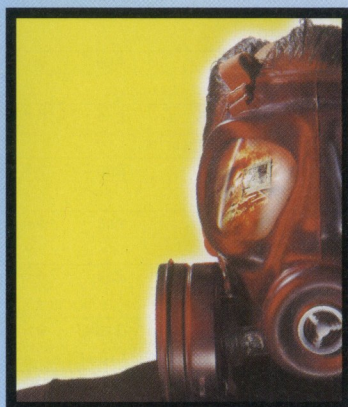
Issue: *May 1995*

On sale: *23rd March 1995*

Two excellent programs adorn the CD-ROM on this month's issue of *PC Answers*. First off, there's the full version of *Visual Basic* so you can easily create your own applications – we're also starting a series of tutorials to help you get as much out of the program as possible. Then we have a special 30 day trial of *ClarisWorks 3.0*, integrating word processing, graphics, spreadsheets and a database. The real fun starts with stacks of games demos, shareware and a special A to Z of essential utilities. There's also a special supplement featuring vital hints and tips so you can get even more out of your PC.

Inside the magazine there's a feature on making music, where we look at the essential hardware you need. We look at where PCs are going to be in the year 2000 and take an in-depth look at all the slices of the visible man. Plus, there's a massive selection of new releases reviewed, and questions and answers to your PC problems. Intrigued? Then pop down to your newsagent's on Thursday 23rd March and buy a copy.

Paula Richards Editor



PC Format

Issue: *April 1995*

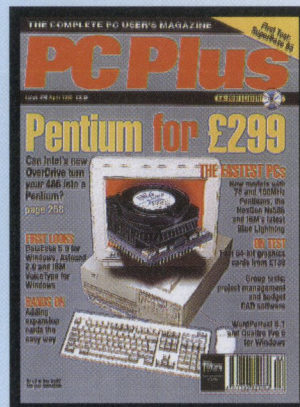
On sale: *16th March 1995*

In the competition for bigger circulations, the media has pushed back the boundaries of what's permissible – what you see isn't always what happened. *PC Format* exposes some recent cases of 'image doctoring', and predicts what the future holds for our image-laden society. And if you want to have a go at manipulating your own photos or images, we're giving away *Picture Publisher 3.1* – the complete commercial program worth more than £500!

Our CD-ROM includes playable demos of LucasArts' new graphic adventure – *Full Throttle*, *Ticonderoga* – a naval battle sim, and *Football Glory*. Plus, there's Steinberg's music creation program, *Cubasis*, and a wealth of shareware programs and utilities.

And there's more – an interview with pop legend and PC aficionado, Thomas Dolby, a round-up of portable PCs, a free 32-page Collector's Guide to Mindscape games, and all the latest on PC hardware and software. Go on, do your PC a favour – buy the latest issue of the world's best-selling PC leisure magazine...

Dan Slingsby Editor



PC Plus

Issue: *May 1995*

On sale: *3rd April 1995*

The PC everyone wants is a 90MHz Pentium, and at last they're becoming more affordable. We've rounded up six of the latest multimedia machines for around £1,500! And to keep up with a fast PC you'll want a fast CD-ROM drive, so we put six models through a gruelling *PC Plus* group test. If you're surfing the net, you'll want the speediest modem around. We've found some extra-whizzy V34 (28,800bps) models for around £200!

On the software front we have reviews of *Ventura 5*, free-text databases and international word processors. But if you're more interested in how to remove software than how to buy it, check out our hands-on feature – Uninstalling Software.

On the SuperCD we plan to have hundreds of megabytes of great stuff, including a massive working test drive of *dBase 5 for Windows*, and the complete *PC Plus* desktop publishing kit, with all the programs you need, and our very own *ScreenCam* movie tutorials to make it all work. Don't miss it!

Dave Pearman Editor



.net the Internet magazine

Issue: *May 1995*

On sale: *6th April 1995*

This month *.net* finds out who's in control of the Internet. The bigwigs of the industrialised world certainly think they're in control – they had a highfaluting G7 summit to discuss the information superhighway, and *.net* was there to separate the hot topics from the hot air.

Until recently the Net was a commerce-free academic playground, but now the computer giants are muscling in. We look at how they're trying to create private areas in our public playground. Among all this high-powered manoeuvring, the Electronic Frontier Foundation is standing up for the Net users' rights, and our report will tell you how to stop people taking liberties with your electronic rights.

We also have an interview with infamous Net duo Canter and Seigel (are they really as bad as you think?), a look at how gay people can use the Net to find support and romance, and a report from Kobe revealing how the Net was used to save life and limb in the aftermath of the massive earthquake. Plus – free! – no annoying CD-ROM taped to the cover making a sticky mess! (But you do get a rather lush book.)

Richard Longhurst Editor

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

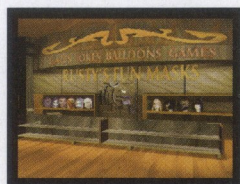
Games

Games

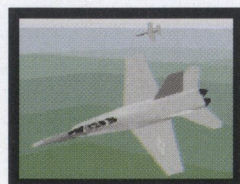
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Shadow of the Comet (Issue 4)	Infogrames	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Infogrames	0171 7388199
The stories of HP Lovecraft are brought to life in this spooky adventure game.										
Shadowcaster (Issue 2)	Origin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Excellent action-oriented adventure game, with CD-only speech and animations.										
Silent Service 2	Microprose/Action 16	D	●		●		£20	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
Battle beneath the waves in this involving but rather dated submarine game.										
SimCity Enhanced (Issue 2)	Interplay	D		●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	01235 821666
Solve three Victorian mysteries with the help of full-motion video clues. First in a series of three discs.										
Simon the Sorcerer (Issue 4)	Adventuresoft	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	PDQ	0121 6253377
The voice of comedian Chris Barrie accompanies this humorous graphic adventure - great fun.										
Space Hulk (Issue 2)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
An excellent battle-based game from strategy experts Games Workshop.										
Space Quest Collection (Issue 5)	Dynamix	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Five humorous sci-fi adventures on one disc.										
Spirit of Excalibur	Virgin Interactive	D			●		£35	★★★★☆	Virgin Interactive	0181 9602255
Based on the legends of King Arthur, this is a cross-genre adventure with strategic and arcade-based elements.										
Star Crusader (Issue 8)	Gametek	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	Gametek	01753 553445
Conventional space-based 3D shoot 'em up.										
Star Trek - 25th Anniversary (Issue 1)	Interplay	D	●		●		£47	★★★★☆	Interplay	01235 821666
Lead the crew of the Enterprise through puzzling adventures... now with the voices of the original cast.										
Superski Pro (Issue 11)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Fun and frivolous skiing game with events from downhill slalom to snowboarding.										
Syndicate + (Issue 2)	Bullfrog	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Venomously violent and hugely addictive, this action-cum-strategy game comes highly recommended.										
System Shock (Issue 11)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
3D science fiction game.										
Theme Park (Issue 4)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Construct and manage a thriving amusement park in this hugely entertaining business simulation.										
Titan's Legacy (Issue 7)	Bluebyte	D	●		●		£26	★★★★☆	Kompart	01438 840004
Additional missions, forces and scenery for <i>Battle Isle 2</i> . Requires original game.										
Tornado/Falcon 3.0 (Issue 7)	Digital Integration	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
Two extremely accurate, complex but rewarding flight simulators for the price of one.										
Ultima Underworld 1 & 2 (Issue 2)	Origin	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Both of these games broke new ground, with amazing 3-D graphics and involving plots.										
Ultimate Domain (Issue 7)	Mindscape	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Strategy game that requires you to nurture a medieval village into a well-developed fighting force.										
Under a Killing Moon (Issue 9)	Access	D	●	●	●	●	£60	★★★★☆	US Gold	0121 6253366
Movie-style detective game, taking up a whopping four discs.										
Universe (Issue 10)	Core Design	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Core Design	01332 297797
Adventure game with a lack-lustre plot.										
US Navy Fighters (Issue 9)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
A flight/fight simulator with stunning graphics.										
Voyeur (Issue 10)	Interplay	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Interplay	01235 821888
A tale of nastiness and murder that fails to either shock or impress.										
Wacky Wheels (Issue 11)	Apogee	D	●		●	●	£28	★★★★☆	Apogee	01474 325801
Whizz around various tracks competing against Peggles the Pelican, et al. Included are 22 other shareware titles including <i>Raptor</i> , <i>Hocus Pocus</i> and <i>Wolfenstein 3D</i> .										
Wing Commander 3 (Issue 10)	Origin	D	●		●		£55	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Interactive movie-style game with gripping action and adventure.										
Woodruff (Issue 11)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	01734 303171
Search for the Schnibble of Azimuth in this wonderful adventure game.										
X-Wing Collector's Edition (Issue 9)	Virgin	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	0181 9602255
Space combat simulator set in the <i>Star Wars</i> universe, combining neat presentation with excellent gameplay.										
Zool 2 (Issue 5)	Gremlin	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	01142 753423
Enjoyable and colourful platform rompings.										
Zork Anthology (Issue 9)	Activision	D	●		●		£15	★★★★☆	Activision	0181 7429400
A compilation of <i>Zork 1-III</i> , <i>Beyond Zork</i> , <i>Zork Zero</i> and <i>Planetfall</i> , featuring text-based fantasy adventures.										



▲ System Shock



▲ Under a Killing Moon



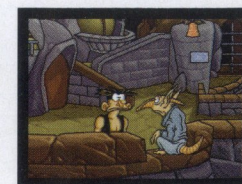
▲ US Navy Fighters



▲ Wacky Wheels



▲ Wing Commander 3



▲ Woodruff

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Geography

Geography

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
3D World Atlas (Issue 9)	Electronic Arts	W	●	●	●	●	£55	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Political, relief and photo-based environmental globes composed from satellite pictures, with information and statistics on individual countries.										
10 Manmade Wonders (Issue 5)	InterOptica	W	●	●	●	●	£74	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
Great content but patchy design. Also available: <i>7 Natural Wonders</i> .										
America Adventure	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45		Guildsoft	01752 606200
Explore the history, geography and culture of America in this educational multimedia presentation.										
Cities Below (Issue 9)	Now What Software	W	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
Satellite pictures of the United States are used to provide a map, with little detail.										
City 2000 London	Aditus	D	●	●	●	●	£41		Unica	0161 4290241
An adventure-style game to teach basic principles of navigation, and the geography of London.										
CNN Newsroom: Global View (Issue 9)	Compact Publishing	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	Unica	0161 4290241
With atlas, statistics, 'world clock', background information and video clips from CNN reports. Much of the information is out of date.										
Discover York (Issue 4)	Ordnance Survey	W	●		●	●	£120	★★★★☆	Ordnance Survey	01703 792012
An education-orientated investigation of the city, linked to Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum.										
Everywhere-USA Guide (Issue 3)	Deep River Publishing	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Optech	01252 714340
Two discs provide a useful and interesting guide to the sights of America.										
Exotic Japan	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£56		Softline	0181 4011234
Learn about the ancient culture of the Japanese by lesson, game or quiz.										
Global Explorer (Issue 2)	Delorme	W	●			●	£117	★★★★☆	Logix	0181 7632888
An atlas of the world that can zoom into street maps of major cities.										
Last Chance to See (Issue 2)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234 (Issue
Double-disc multimedia version of the globe-trotting tome from Douglas Adams and Mark Cawardine.										
Maps 'N' Facts (Issue 2)	Broderbund	D			●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	01753 549442
A family atlas of printable maps, charts and texts.										
Mexico (Issue 3)	Aborecence	W		●	●	●	£25	★★★★☆	Unica	0161 4290241
A colourful but rather shallow guide to Mexico.										
Oceans Below	Amazing Media	D	●	●	●	●	£17		Digital Integration	01276 684959
Discover life under the waves through video, narration, pictures and text.										
Small Blue Planet (Issue 2)	Now What Software	W	●			●	£59	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
Maps, atlases and political analysis brought to colourful life.										
Where is Carmen Sandiego?	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£60		Electronic Arts	01753 549442
Multimedia clues make up an educational geography-based adventure game.										
World Atlas (Issue 2)	Mindscape	W		●	●	●	£60	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
A multimedia atlas of the world.										

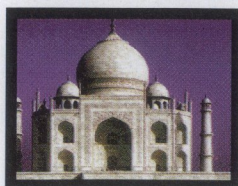
History

History

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
20th Century Video Almanac (Issue 5)	Mindscape	D	●	●	●	●	£80	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
A multimedia ride through recent history.										
3D Dinosaur Adventure (Issue 9)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
3D glasses give a whole new dimension to dinosaur-related facts and diversions.										
Ancient Lands (Issue 4)	Microsoft	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Impeccably produced and lusciously illustrated guide to ancient civilisations.										
The Anglo-Saxons (Issue 4)	Research Machines	W	●			●	£100	★★★★☆	Research Machines	01235 826868
A wealth of Anglo-Saxon-related resources for use in schools, produced with the collaboration of the British Museum.										
Changing Times (Issue 1)	News Multimedia	W				●	£146	★★★★☆	Optech	01252 714340
15,000 original reports and 1,000 photographs, illustrations and etchings from the archives of The Times.										
CIA: The Secret Files (Issue 9)	CD Vision	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	CD Vision	0181 5030589
A history of the CIA, and conflicts that it has been involved with, with accompanying (poor-quality) videos and pictures.										
Desert Storm (Issue 5)	Warner New Media	W/D			●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Images, text and sound combine to form a comprehensive documentation of the conflict.										
Dinosaurs Multimedia Encyclopedia (Issue 9)	Media Design Interactive	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
A variety of information on dinosaurs is on offer, from a tutorial on fossils to a gallery of illustrations.										
The Discoverers (Issue 5)	Knowledge Adventure	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
Solid multimedia investigation of the spirit of adventure.										



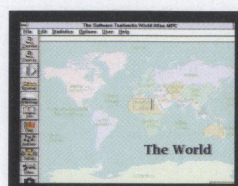
▲ 3D World Atlas



▲ 10 Manmade Wonders



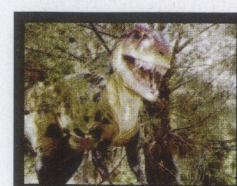
▲ Last Chance to See



▲ World Atlas



▲ The Discoverers



▲ Dinosaur Encyclopedia

Continued overleaf ►

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

History

History

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone1
Exploring Ancient Architecture (Issue 4)	Medio MultiMedia	W	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
An animated tour back in time to buildings in Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Stone Age.										
First Emperor of China (Issue 4)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£70	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
The history surrounding the Terracotta Army, and the circumstances of its discovery.										
The Haldeman Diaries (Issue 11)	Sony Psygnosis	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
The diaries of Nixon's chief of staff, with a whole load of insider information. Fascinating.										
Incredible Cross Sections Stowaway (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	0171 8365411
Detailed portrayal of life on board an 18th century Man o' War, incorporating an educational game.										
ITN European Video Atlas	Attica Cybernetics	W	●	●	●	●	£99		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Maps, statistical data and TV-style reports from ITN create a multimedia atlas of Europe.										
ITN World News '93 (Issue 5)	Media Design Interactive	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
Television news reports provide a record of the entire year. Comes bundled with ITN World News '92 for extra value.										
J.F.K. Assassination (Issue 5)	Medio Multimedia	W	●		●	●	£47	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
An exhaustive multimedia examination of the circumstances surrounding JFK's assassination.										
Microsoft Dinosaurs (Issue 9)	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£45		Microsoft	01734 270001
Excellent design and a huge expanse of illustration and photography give a highly impressive tour of prehistoric life.										
Normandy: The Great Crusades (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Documentary of D-Day with articles, pictures and narration on almost every aspect of the landings.										
Prehistoria (Issue 7)	Grolier	W	●	●	●	●	£70	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Spanning 500 million years, this CD explores background detail on some 500 animals										
Seven Days in August	Time Warner	W		●	●	●	£50		Time Warner	01604 602800
Interactive multimedia documentary exploring the week in 1961 when the Berlin wall was constructed.										
Time Almanac 1993	Compact Publishing	W		●	●	●	£69		Unica Limited	0161 4290241
A huge collection of articles from Time Magazine, with video footage from CNN. Also available in a special schools edition.										
World War II	Yorkshire Television/ILP	D	●	●	●	●	£130		Academy	01132 461528
Thousands of words, pictures and videos bring the past to life.										
World War II Encyclopedia (Issue 5)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£50		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
A wide range of primary source data, with film footage, photographs, sound recordings and documents.										

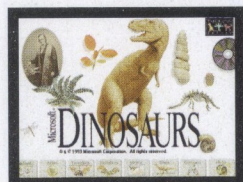
Home & Health

Home & Health

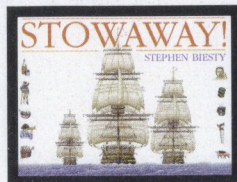
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Bacchus & Comus (Issue 4)	Winesoft Cluxro NV	W				●	£46	★★★★☆	Unica	0161 4290241
A guide to 1200 wines, presented with their labels and maps showing their region of origin.										
Better Homes CD Cookbook (Issue 4)	Multicom	D		●	●	●	£47	★★★★☆	Kamco	01895 271919
Video clips of cooking techniques, together with recipes and nutritional information.										
Cookbook Heaven (Issue 4)	Most Significant Bits	D					£18	★★★★☆	Unica	0161 4290241
Over 20,000 recipes, along with a set of diet and health applications.										
Doctor's Book of Home Remedies	Compton's NewMedia	W					£40	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
An easy-to-use guide to common ailments and how best to alleviate them.										
Family Doctor	CMC ReSearch	D/W				●	£35		Optech	01252 714340
Over 1,000 frequently-asked medical queries answered with the aid of diagrams and colour photographs.										
Fitness Partner (Issue 4)	Computer Directions	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
Develop your own full-motion video fitness trainer.										
Four Seasons French Cuisine (Issue 7)	Arôme Interactive	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
Seventy recipes, some of which have video clips to illustrate certain techniques.										
The Joy of Sex (Issue 11)	Philips Media	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Philips Media	0171 9113081
The famous sex guide makes it to CD-ROM, although it would probably be a better bet to buy the book.										
Kathy Smith's Fat Burning	Xiphias	W		●	●	●	£38		CD-Direct	01703 455115
A complete 10-week guide to fitness, based on Kathy Smith's books, audio and video tapes.										
Lifesaver (Issue 4)	Media Design	W		●	●	●	£29	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
A complete First Aid course with video clips, narration and photographs.										
Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (Issue 4)	Compton's NewMedia	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
Has-been celebrities lead you through their favourite recipes. Totally bizarre.										
Wines of the World (Issue 4)	Multicom	W		●	●	●	£46	★★★★☆	Kamco	01895 271919
All aspects of wine production and appreciation, including a wine database of over 2000 wines.										



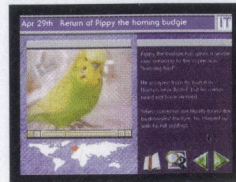
▲ The Haldeman Diaries



▲ Microsoft Dinosaurs



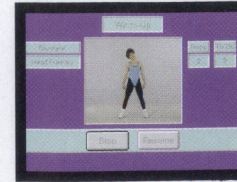
▲ Stowaway



▲ ITN World News '93



▲ Better Homes Cookbook



▲ Fitness Partner

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Literature

Literature

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Barron's Book Notes	World Library	D/W					£70		Cambridge CD-ROM	01449 774658
Commentaries and criticisms on great works of literature.										
The Brontë Sisters	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D				●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	01633 867777
The complete works of all three sisters, together with illustrations and biographical information.										
Classic Library (Issue 3)	Andromeda Interactive	W	●			●	£50	★★★☆☆	Andromeda Interactive	01235 529595
Full-text versions of over 2,000 works of world literature. A special price of £40 applies to schools.										
The Complete Multimedia Bible (Issue 11)	Compton's New Media	W	●	●	●	●	£39	★★★★☆	Koch Media	01252 714340
Based on the text of the King James Authorised version, with an atlas, search facilities and explanatory articles.										
Creative Writer	Microsoft	W/D	●		●		£48		Microsoft	01734 270001
A collection of tools and resources for writers.										
Desktop Bookshop	Unica	D					£25		Unica	0161 4290241
The world's most famous books – Buddha, Byron, Shakespeare, Twain and more.										
Great Mystery Classics	World Library	D/W			●	●	£25		Cambridge CD-ROM	01449 774658
171 full-text stories of intrigue and mystery.										
The Illustrated Holy Bible	Animated Pixels	D				●	£25		Animated Pixels	01705 291866
The complete text of the Old and New Testaments with full-colour VGA illustrations and powerful search facilities.										
Jane Austen	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D				●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	01633 867777
The complete novels, with introductory essays and powerful search facilities.										
King James Bible	Compton's New Media	D				●	£49		GEM	01279 822822
The full text of the King James version of the Bible, with advanced search and cross-referencing tools.										
Lewis Carroll (Issue 3)	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D			●	●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	01633 867777
The writings of Charles Dodgson with numerous illustrations, and readings by Sir John Gielgud.										
Library of the Future	World Library	W/D					£293		Cambridge CD-ROM	01449 774658
All entries are complete, unabridged and accessible in seconds.										

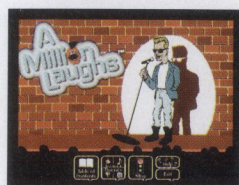
Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

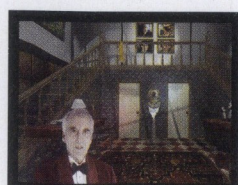
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
A Million Laughs (Issue 9)	FutureVision	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	CD-Direct	01703 455115
Not quite a million, more like 175,000, indexed alphabetically, including puns, limericks, gags etc.										
The Animals (Issue 7)	Mindscape	D/W		●	●	●	£17	★★★☆☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
Details of 203 different species, with five or six pictures per animal – however the quality of the video is poor.										
Behind the Scenes: The Zoo (Issue 7)	MDI	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Sony Psygnosis	0181 710948
Features a timeline of the day's activities at Marwell Zoo. Presentation is weak at times.										
Funny (Issue 9)	Warner New Media	M		●	●	●	£35	★★★☆☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Indexed QuickTime movies of 120 jokes, told by ordinary people.										
Ghosts (Issue 8)	Sony Psygnosis	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095755
Enter Hobbs Manor with Dr Marcus Grimalkin (alias Christopher Lee) and discover weird and wonderful tales of the supernatural. Not for the faint-hearted.										
How Multimedia Computers Work (Issue 5)	Mindscape	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
A strange mixture of the obvious and baffling, that attempts to lay bare the internal operation of your PC.										
In The Company of Whales (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
Patrick Stewart narrates this interesting marine documentary.										
It's All Relative (Issue 9)	Time Warner Interactive	W		●	●	●	£55	★★★☆☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
American stand-up comedians tell jokes about families.										
Klik & Play (Issue 8)	Europress Software	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Express Software	01628 859333
Create your own games, using the graphics and sound libraries provided, or import your own material.										
Magic Eye (Issue 11)	Mindscape	W	●		●	●	£25	★★★☆☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Go cross-eyed with stereograms galore, including the history of stereographic imagery and the opportunity to try creating your own.										
Manchester United Interactive (Issue 10)	VCI Software	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	VCI Software	01923 255558
Everything that a Man United fan could want to know: player profiles, performance statistics, videos, the lot.										
Maniac Sports (Issue 6)	Mindscape	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Interactive documentary exploring the equipment, history, risks and training involved in nine different sports.										
Murmurs of Earth (Issue 3)	Warner New Media	D			●	●	£39	★★★☆☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
The Voyager interstellar record – the sounds and images of our planet – on CD-ROM.										
Newsweek Interactive (Issue 2)	Mindscape	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
Published quarterly, Newsweek Interactive features original audio, video, animations, narration and photo-essays.										



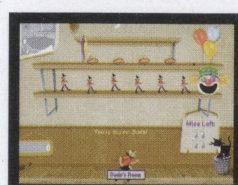
▲ Multimedia Bible



▲ A Million Laughs



▲ Ghosts



▲ Klik & Play



▲ Magic Eye



▲ Manchester United

Continued overleaf ►

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Miscellaneous

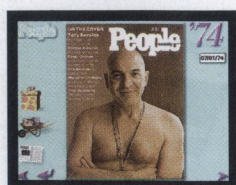
Miscellaneous

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
National Lampoon's Blind Date (Issue 11)	Trimark Interactive	W		●	●	●	£40	★☆☆☆☆	Domark	0181 7802222
Ask sumptuous Sandi a series of questions, trying to avoid offending her. If you liked the American magazine, forget this.										
People (Issue 11)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
A celebration of '20 Amazing Years of Pop Culture' featuring all the best covers and features from the American magazine.										
Sources of Faith (Issue 11)	KimTec	W	●	●	●	●	£58	★★★★☆	KimTec	01202 888873
An exploration of seven of the world's major religions, but unfortunately taken mainly from a Judeo-Christian perspective.										
Star Trek Interactive Manual (Issue 10)	ABLAC Learning Works	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	ABLAC	01626 332233
Take a guided tour around the Enterprise with the Next Generation team.										
Stereoworld (Issue 11)	Impact Software	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Impact Software	01142 752333
Includes a gallery of 25 still stereogram images, animations, and games. There is also the opportunity to create your own stereograms.										
Virtual Escape (Issue 6)	Microforum	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	CD Concepts	0181 9937117
Features include virtual visits to animated locations, a stress management and exercise section and headache-inducing fractal screen - but it doesn't quite work.										

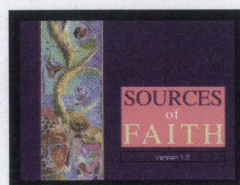
Music

Music

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Intro to Classical Music (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W			●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
An interactive guide to the life and works of 40 great Western Classical composers.										
Beethoven's 5th (Issue 1)	Interactive Publishing	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
A multimedia exploration of Beethoven's 5th Symphony.										
Beethoven and Beyond (Issue 8)	Voyager	W			●	●	£24	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
Contains essays on Beethoven and his contemporaries, 72 minutes of high quality sound and a catalogue.										
Don't Play Track One (Issue 6)	Day at the Beach	W	●	●	●	●	£24	★★★★☆	Multimedia Experience	01706 210022
A manic selection of musical numbers accompanied by bizarre visuals. If you want background music only, slam it on your CD player. Cool!										
The Gingerbread Man (Issue 10)	BMG Interactive	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	BMG Interactive	0171 8730011
The latest interactive from <i>The Residents</i> , exploring the minds of nine bizarre characters.										
The Grammy Awards	Compton's New Media	D			●	●	£39		GEM	01279 822822
The winners and nominees of the past 34 years, with hundreds of pictures and more than one hour of audio.										
Headcandy (Issue 9)	BMG Interactive	D	●		●	●	£20	★★★★☆	BMG Interactive	0171 8730011
Five tracks of ambient music with strange multi-colour animations.										
Jazz - A Multimedia History (Issue 2)	Compton's New Media	D/W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
A multimedia guide to Jazz from 1923-1991, containing photos, audio clips and vintage film footage.										
Jump (Issue 2)	ION	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	BMG	0171 9730011
Take a trip into the weird, weird world of David Bowie.										
Microsoft Musical Instruments (Issue 1)	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£48		Microsoft	01734 270001
An impressively put-together multimedia guide to over 200 musical instruments.										
Mozart: The Dissonant Quartet	Microsoft/Voyager	W			●		£39		Microsoft	01734 270001
Focussing on the C Major String Quartet, 'The Dissonant', this is a multimedia examination of Mozart's music.										
Prince Interactive (Issue 4)	The Graphix Zone	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	01279 822822
A richly presented exploration of the works and lifestyle of the rock star Prince.										
Residents' Freakshow (Issue 2)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£59	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
Peek at fetishes, fantasies, rituals and tragic secrets, with the music of The Residents.										
Rock 'N' Roll Years: The Fifties (Issue 2)	Supervision	W			●		£25	★★★★☆	Supervision	0171 7029391
A variety of material from the fifties, including music, TV interviews, and news stories on the growth of teen culture.										
Schubert: The Trout Quintet	Voyager Press	W		●	●	●	£44	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Musical examples, commentary and a game.										
Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring (Issue 1)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£37	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
A broad and inventive insight into <i>The Rite of Spring</i> and its composer.										
Tchaikovsky's 1812 (Issue 8)	Mindscape	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
An interactive guide to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, with 15 minutes of audio track that you can play on your CD player.										
Viking Opera Guide (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£59	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
A complete Opera reference guide including over three hours of music and more than 300 pictures.										
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons	EBook Inc	W			●	●	£19		Active Distribution	0181 8381280
An interactive exploration of the life and work of Vivaldi; focussing on his most celebrated composition.										
Xplora 1 (Issue 12)	RealWorld	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	Mirage	01260 399909
Journey through the weird and wonderful secret world of Peter Gabriel - the man, the music and the videos.										



▲ People



▲ Sources of Faith



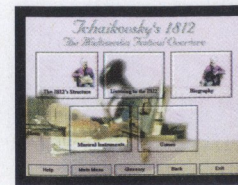
▲ Star Trek Manual



▲ Gingerbread Man



▲ Prince Interactive



▲ Tchaikovsky's 1812

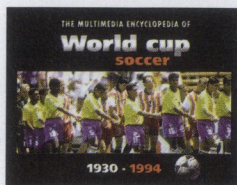
Reference

Reference

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Allegro PC Library (Issue 3)	Allegro New Media	W		●		●	£70	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Unica	0161 4290241
A veritable warehouse of PC-related information. Also available: <i>Allegro Business Library</i> .										
Attica Writer's Bookshelf	Attica Cybernetics	W					£50		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Cut and paste information from numerous reference works, including <i>The Bible</i> , a dictionary and a thesaurus.										
Book Bank CD-ROM	J Whitaker & Sons	D					£1,220		J Whitaker & Sons	0171 8368911
700,000 records of English language books published in the UK, and 70 countries worldwide.										
CD-ROM Directory on Disc 1993	TFPL	D					£135		TFPL Publishing	0171 2515522
The complete reference tool for CD-ROM users and industry professionals alike.										
Chambers English Dictionary (Issue 3)	Chambers Harrap	D					£55	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Chambers Harrap	0131 5574571
Comprehensive search facilities enhance this classic work of reference.										
Compton's Family Encyclopedia	Compton's New Media	D			●	●	£95		GEM	01279 822822
The complete <i>Britannica Family Encyclopedia</i> on CD-ROM.										
Compton's Interactive (Issue 8)	Compton's New Media	D/W	●	●	●	●	£79	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	GEM	01279 822822
The 1995 version contains 100 video clips, 15 hours of sound; an atlas, dictionary, and 35,000 articles, with comprehensive cross-referencing.										
Concise Oxford English Dictionary	OUP	W					£50		OUP	01865 267979
Also available: <i>Oxford Thesaurus on Compact Disc</i> , and <i>Oxford Dictionary of Quotations</i> .										
Crossword Cracker	Wayzata Technology	D					£25		Nimbus	01633 867777
Database of over 170,000 words specifically designed for crossword puzzles.										
Daily and Sunday Telegraph	Attica Cybernetics	W				●	£79		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
News items and feature articles for a whole year.										
Ecctis 2000	Ecctis 2000	D					£180		Ecctis 2000	01242 518724
A national database of courses at over 700 universities and colleges within the UK.										
Encarta '95 (Issue 8)	Microsoft	W	●	●	●	●	£85	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
Updated for 1995, its better than ever, containing 26,000 articles, an atlas, dictionary and thesaurus. An invaluable reference tool.										
Encyclopedia of Science Fiction	Nimbus/Little Brown	D			●	●	£40		Nimbus	01633 867 777
Images, sound and powerful text searches accompany this comprehensive guide.										
Financial Times	Chadwyck-Healey	W/D					£900		Chadwyck-Healey	01223 311479
Archived final editions of the influential newspaper.										
Football Encyclopedia (Issue 11)	Matra Hachette	W		●	●	●	£45	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Koch Media	01252 714340
Encyclopedia of World Cup Soccer, from 1930-1994, with all the stats you could possibly want.										
The 1995 Grolier Encyclopedia (Issue 11)	Grolier	D/W	●	●	●	●	£100	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
A comprehensive encyclopedia, based on <i>The American Academic Encyclopedia</i> . A free copy of <i>The Animals!</i> is included with the CD.										
Guinness Disc of Records (1994) (Issue 8)	Mindscape	D/W		●	●	●	£60	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
There are more than 3,800 records, accompanied by pictures and videos with synchronised sound. Full of trivial!										
The Hulton People Disc	Attica Cybernetics	W				●	£149		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
10,000 photographs of famous people, glossed with text.										
Hutchinson Encyclopedia '95 (Issue 8)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£50	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
Updated version of the British multimedia encyclopedia with 34,000 articles, including 30 minutes of video clips, 180 sound clips, maps and a dictionary.										
Information Finder (Issue 8)	World Books	D			●	●	£217	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	World Books	01892 547 811
A new version, with text and tables from the 22 volume <i>World Book Encyclopedia</i> , with 17,000 articles, a dictionary and maps.										
Justis Weekly Law	Context	D					£350		Context	0171 2678989
An extended version of the authoritative legal reference, detailing the development of English Law since 1981.										
KGB-CIA World Factbook	Compton's New Media	W/D				●	£39		GEM	01279 822822
The KGB's perspective of the world prior to the collapse of the USSR, alongside de-classified files of the CIA.										
Microsoft Bookshelf (Issue 2)	Microsoft	D/W	●			●	£130	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
A complete set of electronic reference books, with maps and animations to complement the texts.										
New Dictionary of the Living World (Issue 9)	MDI	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 7095766
Boasting a 500,000 word encyclopedia, it contains text entries and some video clips. Ideal for the amateur naturalist.										
Oxford English Dictionary (Issue 1)	OUP	W					£495	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	OUP	01865 267979
The 2nd edition of the most authoritative English dictionary, with over 2,400,000 illustrative quotations.										
Oxford Language Shelf	OUP	W					£Call		Koch Media	01252 714340
Quick and easy way to check words and phrases. Contains French, German, Spanish and Italian mini-dictionaries.										
Plant Doctor	Quanta Press	D				●	£35		Optech	01252 714340
A database of trees, flowers, shrubs and grasses, and the diseases that can affect them.										
SpaceAGE Encyclopedia (Issue 10)	Arts & Letters	W	●	●	●	●	£59	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	National CD-ROM Co	01293 884146
An extensive reference work on space travel, with a drawing package included.										



▲ Encarta '95



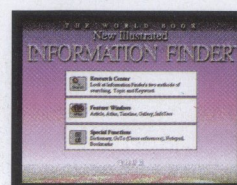
▲ Football Encyclopedia



▲ Grolier '95



▲ Guinness Disc Records



▲ Information Finder



▲ SpaceAge Encyclopedia

Continued overleaf ►

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Reference

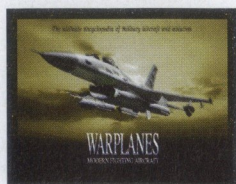
Reference

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
TES BookFind	Head Software	W					£Call		Head Software	01883 717 057
	Details of 500,000 books, with full reviews from the <i>Times Educational Supplement</i> and other sources.									
Times 1993	News Multimedia	D/W				●	£175		News Multimedia	0171 7823982
	Every 1993 edition of <i>The Times</i> and <i>The Sunday Times</i> . Special Education price: £104. Also available: year discs for '90, '91 and '92.									
Toolworks Reference Library	Mindscape	D					£100		Mindscape	01444 246333
	Fast and easy access to an electronic reference bookshelf.									
Warplanes (Issue 7)	Maris Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£55	★★★★☆	Mindscape	01444 246333
	A comprehensive encyclopedia of military aircraft and aviation.									

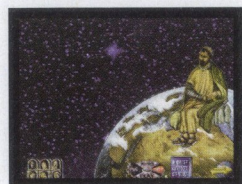
Science

Science

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
3D Body Adventure (Issue 4)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
	An educational game-based exploration of the body and its systems, in three dimensions.									
7 Natural Wonders	InterOptica	W	●	●	●	●	£74	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
	Combining colourful video, photography and text, it covers seven incredible natural features like the Great Barrier Reef and Grand Canyon.									
A Brief History of Time (Issue 10)	W H Freeman & Co	W	●	●	●	●	£59	★★★★☆	W H Freeman & Co	01865 726975
	Containing the entire text from Stephen Hawking's bestseller, using multimedia to illustrate complex examples.									
A World Alive (Issue 5)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£44	★★★★☆	Softline	0181 4011234
	Commentary from James Earl Jones adds impact to this multimedia nature documentary.									
Beyond Planet Earth (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
	Venture into space with the Discovery Channel, and investigate the planets of the solar system.									
Bug Adventure (Issue 7)	Knowledge Adventure	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
	The world of insects brought to life for children and parents.									
Creepy Crawlies (Issue 7)	Media Design	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Sony Psygnosis	0151 709 5755
	An investigation of insect biology with over 40 minutes of full-motion video, coupled with narration and full-colour images.									
Dangerous Creatures (Issue 7)	Microsoft	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Microsoft	01734 270001
	An excellent guide to dangerous animals on every continent, with colourful and well-filmed videos, and exhaustive info in the form of text and narration.									
Eyewitness Encyclopedia of Science (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●	●	●	●	£99	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	0171 8365411
	The only disc we've given a perfect rating, this superbly illustrated interactive encyclopedia contains comprehensive information on all aspects of science.									
Interactive Periodic Table (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W	●	●	●	●	£79	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
	The presentation of scientific data is enhanced by a range of multimedia diversions.									
Interactive Space Encyclopedia (Issue 2)	Andromeda Interactive	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Andromeda Interactive	01235 529595
	Facts, figures, images, audio and animations with narrations by Patrick Moore.									
Mammalian Biology	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£195		Attica Cybernetics	01865 791346
	The full text, colour photographs, artwork and maps of all five volumes of Grizmek's <i>Encyclopedia of Mammals</i> .									
Mammals	National Geographic	D		●	●	●	£39		Koch Multimedia	01252 714340
	A convenient multimedia resource on mammals and their environments.									
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science (Issue 7)	McGraw-Hill	W	●	●	●	●	£934	★★★★☆	McGraw-Hill	01628 23431
	Everything you need to know about science and technology.									
Redshift (Issue 3)	Maris Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£70	★★★★☆	Maris Multimedia	0171 4881566
	Photos, illustrations and animations provide an absorbingly detailed look at the solar system.									
Sharks! (Issue 9)	Discovery Channel	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	01752 606200
	Packed with information, pictures and videos of everything relating to sharks, including an interview with the author of <i>Jaws</i> .									
Space Shuttle (Issue 3)	Mindscape	D/W	●	●	●	●	£17	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	01276 684959
	A varied and detailed interactive guide to the Space Shuttle and its missions.									
Speed (Issue 5)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	0121 7066000
	A fast-paced look at the history and science of speed.									
The Ultimate Human Body (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£79	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	0171 8365411
	Illustration, animation and narration are combined in this detailed investigation of the structure and operation of the human body.									
The View From Earth (Issue 2)	Warner New Media	W	●		●	●	£41	★★★★☆	Time Warner	01604 602800
	The solar system explored with impressive photographs, and hours of recorded narration.									
The Way Things Work (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£79	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	0171 8365411
	Based on David Macaulay's book, this beautifully illustrated and well-organised disc excels as an interactive guide to inventions.									
Whales and Dolphins (Issue 7)	MDI	W		●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	MDI	01252 737630
	With four chapters - Intro, Body Plan, Ecology and Species, this provides details of 81 kinds of whales and dolphins.									



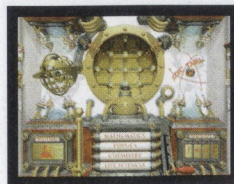
▲ Warplanes



▲ A Brief History of Time



▲ Dangerous Creatures



▲ Eyewitness Encyclopedia



▲ Sharks!



▲ The Way Things Work

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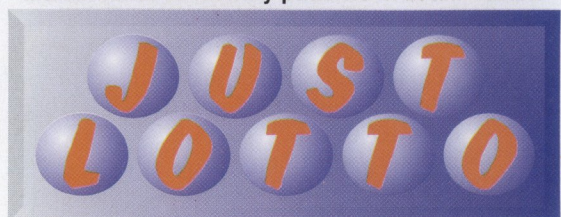
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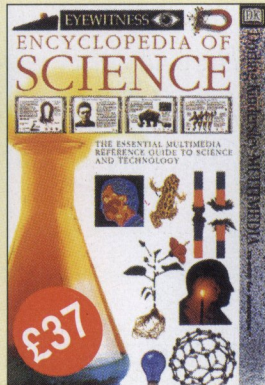
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Farewell!

They say this is going to be the year of multimedia, yet again! But what does that really mean and what's next? Garrick Webster contemplates...

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Colour reprographics

Saturn Reprographics
In-house scanning and imagesetting by Jon Moore,
Simon Windsor, Chris Stocker, Mark Gover, Jason Tittley

Print and distribution

Printed in the UK by ET Heron Print, Maldon, Essex
Newtrade distribution, UK Future Publishing, 01225 442244
Newtrade distribution, overseas Future Publishing, 01225 442244

Mail order and subscriptions

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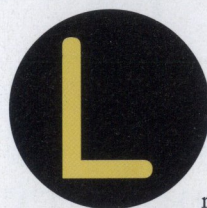
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CD-ROM Today is the definitive magazine for high-flying multimedia PC users everywhere.



Last month, the Audit Bureau of Circulation declared that our average monthly readership between

July 1994 and January 1995 was just over 37,400, making *CD-ROM Today* the most popular UK multimedia magazine. And this year the figures have been going up in leaps and bounds.

Throughout the European computer industry, the word is that 1995 will be the year of multimedia (they said that last year, too). By December there could be a million multimedia PCs in homes all over the country. But what is this ageing buzz word 'multimedia'?

By definition, it's a combination of media such as video, text, photos, music, voices and animations. Personally, I think there's more to it than that.

It's easy for a developer to throw these elements together on a CD-ROM and sell it as a multimedia product. But the excitement about merely having all these bits and pieces strung together has died the death. Everyone's getting wise to the idea that taking vaguely connected material, sticking an interface on the front and calling it multimedia is little more than a money-spinning cop-out.

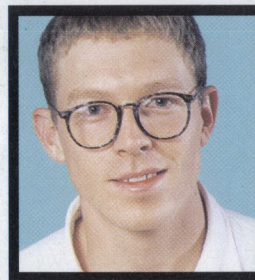
Consider video, for instance. Most video libraries hold stocks originally made for television broadcast. They were never intended to be viewed in a window less than a quarter of the size of your screen, and no-one imagined people would watch them from a distance of 12 or 18 inches. This doesn't matter to the owners of the footage, however – they're looking to sell it to multimedia makers en masse. And more's the pity, plenty in the industry are out buying it.

A select few, however, are going out of their way to find content that actually suits the medium. They're not just plonking whole books onto disc for the user to scroll through. Instead, they're writing new

material. And rather than digitising TV video that's vaguely relevant to their subject matter, they're going out and making their own.

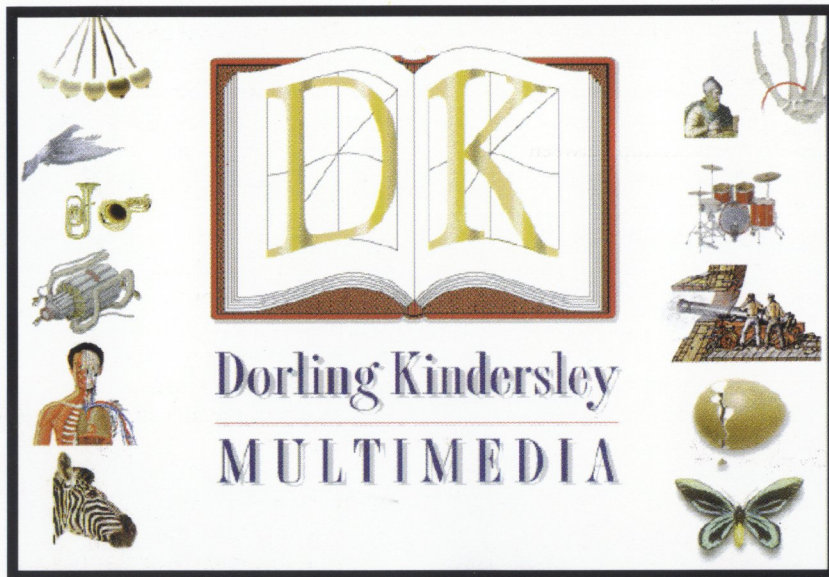
It's companies like this that are crafting the original and truly interesting discs. Neatly side-stepping copyright and licencing issues, this kind of multimedia can become more than just the sum of its constituent parts. And it's these ground-breaking innovators that we're going to be majoring on in the coming months in *CD-ROM Today*.

See you next month! End ■

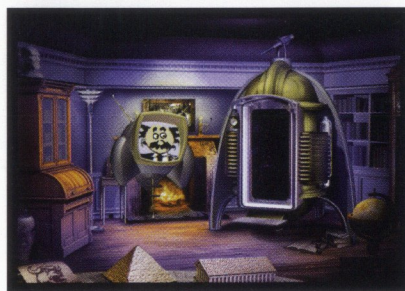


Next issue

We're already getting a great deal of enjoyment out of next month's magazine and coverdisc, and we're sure you will too. The May edition of CD-ROM Today is out on Thursday, April 20th. See you then!



▲ The Eyewitness Encyclopedia of Nature, History of the World, P B Bear's Birthday Surprise, World Reference Atlas, and Anne Hooper's Ultimate Sex Guide. We'll be revealing Dorling Kindersley's brand new discs for '95.

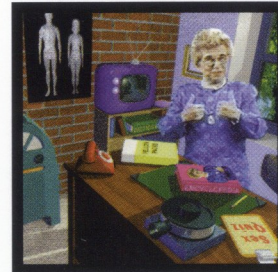


▲ Take a humorous, irreverent, but factually correct look at the Cartoon History of the Universe, from Putnam New Media.

These are just three of the reviews, features and disc demos from the spectacular issue we have lined up for you next month in *CD-ROM Today*.

Don't miss out. Reserve a copy at your newsagent or see our great subscription offers on page 88.

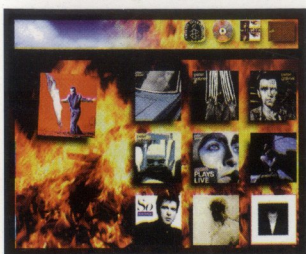
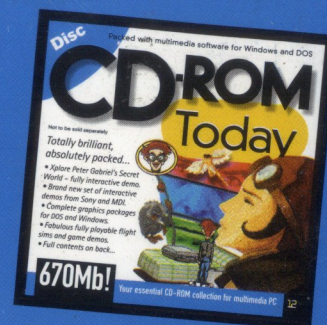
**Don't forget:
20th April 1995**



▲ Dr Ruth grasps the nettle, spares no blushes, and gets straight down to all those thorny problems in her own inimitable style.

What's on your disc?

Superb interactive demos of *Xplora 1*, Sony's new discs, children's titles from Time Warner, complete Micrografx Windows graphics package, fully flyable flight sims, and fully playable games...



1 Xplora 1 (Win)
Explore Peter Gabriel's Secret World in our excellent, fully interactive demo of *Xplora 1*, with the video of *Kiss That Frog*.

2 Haldeman Diaries (Win)
Get behind the scenes of the Nixon administration with this fully interactive demo.

3 ABC Earthquake (Win)
Join the camera crews of the ABC News and investigate the cause and effects of earthquakes in North Ridge, California.

4 Snap Graphics 1.0 (Win)
The complete, commercial Windows graphics package, from Micrografx.

5 Peter and the Wolf (Win)
Sample the young person's guide to the orchestra.

6 Thumbelina (Win)
The first chapter of the CD book, including games, activities, narration and music.



7 Football Encyclopedia (DOS)
Rolling demo of the World Cup history disc.

8 Origin Games Catalogue (Win)
This interactive catalogue, from Electronic Arts, includes a special offer for *Wing Commander III*.

9 Wings of Glory (DOS)
Chocks away for this brilliant, fully playable WWI flight sim demo, from Origin.

10 US Navy Fighters (DOS)
Fully playable jet fighter sim.

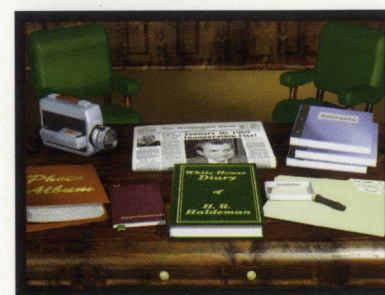
11 Daring to Fly (Win)
Rolling demos of two stylish discs; *Daring to Fly* and *Coral Reef*.



12 Virtual Golf (DOS)
Tee up for the Scottish Open at Carnoustie with this fully playable demo of Core Design's new golf game.

13 Big Red Adventure (DOS)
Play your way through part of this Russian adventure.

14 Sony Sampler (Win)
Interactive sampler of new discs from Sony and MDI.

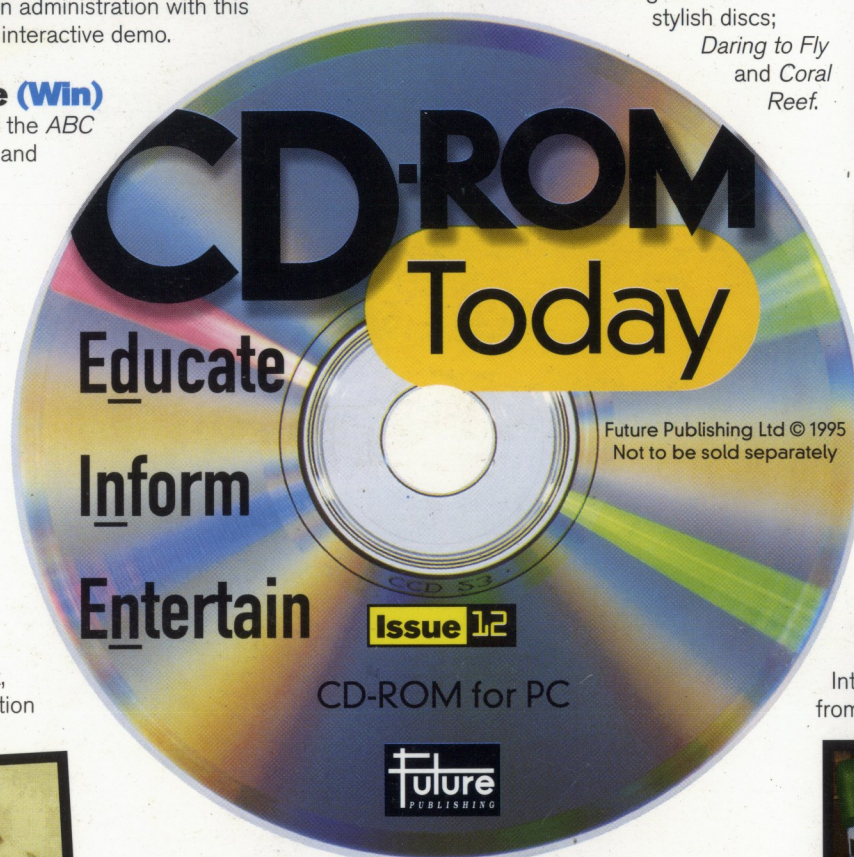


15 Disney Games (DOS)
Virgin and Disney release PC game versions of *The Lion King* and *Aladdin*.

16 Complete Shakespeare (Win/DOS)
Text files to go with our Shakespeare feature and reviews.

17 Super Karts (DOS)
Test your karting skills with these turbo racers.

18 Application Programs (DOS)
QuikMenu III and *Neopaint* – a superb graphical DOS menu system and paint package.



LOOK! Please see the details of system requirements which are on Page 6, inside the magazine!